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BRUTAL LIVES

#11

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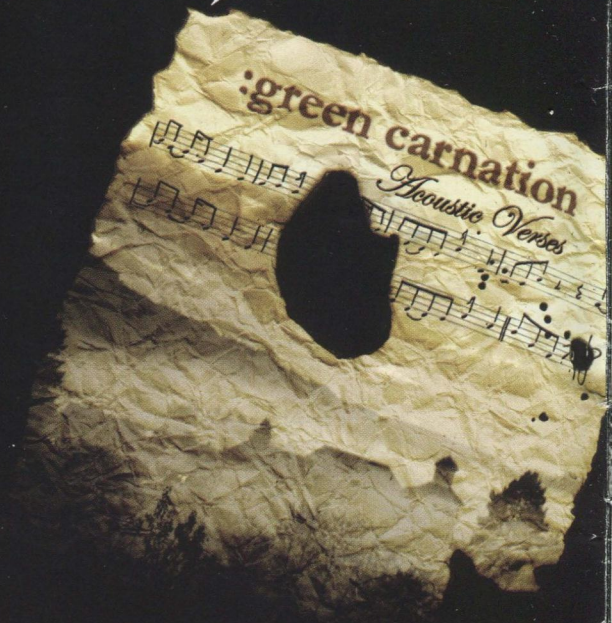
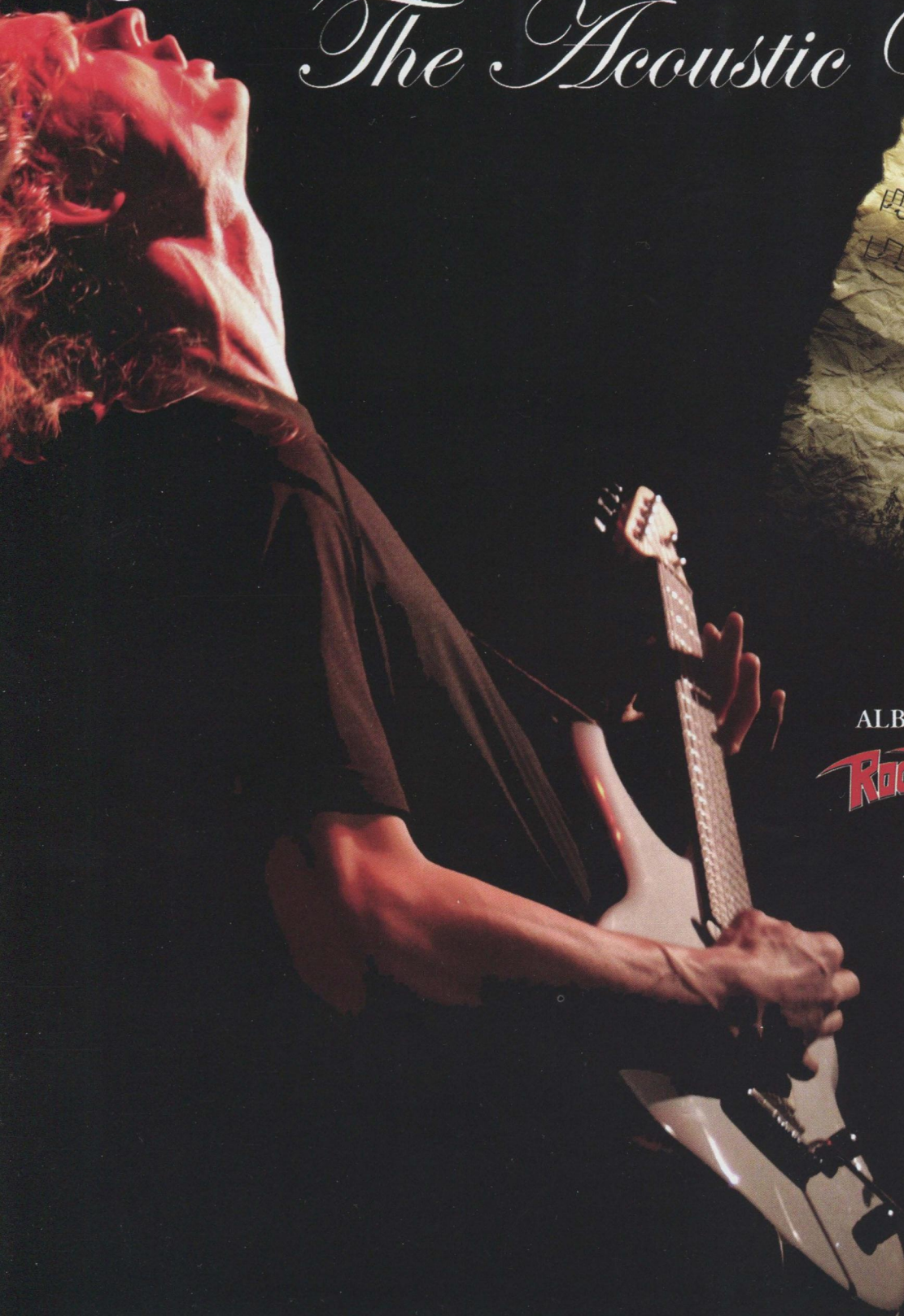
INTERNATIONAL UNDERGROUND METAL MAGAZINE





# :green carnation

## *The Acoustic Verses*



ALBUM OF THE MONTH


**RockHorn** METAL **REVIEWS**

#2 SOUNDCHECK

**METAL  
HAMMER**

Metalius.de 10/10  
Critical Metal 9/10  
Beattheblizzard 9/10  
Metal Norge 9/10  
Panorama 5/6

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# EDITORIAL

Well, if you are reading these lines, then you have succeeded to get a copy of the 11<sup>th</sup> issue of Brutallica Magazine. An issue that was really hard to make. The main problem was that many of the people we were in contact with did not stand behind their promises. As most of you know, in order to make a decent magazine you need a good number of advertisements, without them

any magazine could hardly survive. When we were spreading the message about this issue there was a great interest and a lot of people booked an ad space. But 2-3 weeks later, when the deadline was at hand almost, half of them disappeared and we had to start anew. This cost me a lot of nerves and unpleasant experiences. Of course, Brutallica is not a big magazine and we cannot expect a support from big labels, we mostly rely on Underground record labels and, believe me, all those labels that supported this issue of Brutallica are the real supporters of the Scene! All of them deserve our big THANK YOU! Without them it would have been impossible to get through all expenses, which by the way were rising like mushrooms. One of the new things in this issue is that we slightly increased the font size, because we have got a lot of complaints from our readers that it was damn hard to read some articles. With the rising postal cost we could not add more pages because this would mean to increase the prices to an unacceptable level. I really hope that we made it this time, and that the interviews especially are easier to read. The idea to put SUFFOCATION on the front cover page was mine, I wanted to do it years ago but it was not possible back then. I really hope you will like all interviews and I guess our reviews will help you to get a picture of the numerous albums that have been released in the last 6 months. The CD sampler this time includes mostly young and unknown bands, maybe the only exception are the mighty HALLOWS EVE, this band has released three cult albums within 1985-1989, then they split up. After their reformation they released a new album which should be soon available through Xtrem Music. Be sure to check out this masterpiece if you are into 80's Metal. Support all included bands!!!

In conclusion, I would like to forward my kindest thanks to Vanya Marinova and Ivailo Tonchev for their help and dedication. Of course, I would also like to thank all our contributors and distributors, they all have done a great job. Big thanks to all of you who chose to buy this issue. I really hope it will entertain you!

Chavdar Tzachkov

Underground music is no longer beyond your vision. Just stretch out a hand and get a grip on this incredible issue that will provide the information you have been hungering for about the music least minded by the media.



INTERNATIONAL UNDERGROUND METAL MAGAZINE

Issue # 11, SPRING/SUMMER 2006

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NEWS	4
MINISTRY	5
TENEBRAE IN PERPETUUM	6
NANOWAR	8
SPLITTER	10
CHAOSREGAL	11
ARALLU	12
UHRILEHTO	14
OLD	15
FELDGRAU	16
BAL-SAGOTH	18
VILE	20
ORENDA	22
EXODUS	24
SUFFOCATION	26
EERIE	28
DRILLER KILLER	30
HORNA	32
PSYCROPTIC	34
PAST REDEMPTION	36
REVIEWS	39
MESHUGGAH	57

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2006 is the year for the release of „Demo II“ from the one-man Black Metal project **TARMA** from Afghanistan. Two of the songs can be downloaded here: <http://taarmablackemperoriojezai.metalhordes.com>

„Truden Jivot“, the demo of Bulgaria's Thrash Metalers **CIROZA** since 2004 is available for downloading at the band's official website <http://ciroza.hit.bg>. Check out also the „Videos“ section!

USA's Thrashers **SAURON** have already begun the recordings of their new, yet to be titled EP! Keep an eye on <http://sauron666.cjb.net> for further details.

**EVISCERATE**, the Death / Thrash band from Brescia, has signed for On Dead Sound a contract that will tie them to the newborn Italian label for the production of the next studio work, that will follow the release of the EP „Shadows out Of Time“. The band is already working on new material, in forecast of their come back in studio anticipated for the first months of 2007. **EVISCERATE** are the second band that have signed a deal with On Dead Sound after the signature of the Italian thrashers **IRREVERENCE**.

**EYES OF SHIVA** is currently producing the video clip for „Kamisama“. The song pays homage to the legendary Brazilian soccer player Zico (current coach of the Japanese National Team). Directed by Patric Korb (**SHAAAMAN**, **EDGY**, etc), the video is meant to monumentalize Zico's goals and genial play. The recordings took place in a soccer stadium in Sao Manoel, a city near Sao Paulo.

**BELPEGOR** are currently looking for a bass player! The requirements are as follows: you don't need to be Austrian (but to be able to rehearse in Austria), professional musicians only preferably with stage-tour experience, must be at least 25 years old with main interest in Death / Black Metal in general. Anyone interested can contact the band's management through e-mail at: [belpegor@aon.at](mailto:belpegor@aon.at)

Malaysia's Black Metalers **MANTAK** have recently opened their new official website. Visit it here: [www.mantakhz.com](http://www.mantakhz.com)

The Death Metal veterans **IMMOLATION** have announced a headlining show on August 9<sup>th</sup> at Jaxx in Springfield, VA. Also performing will be **SKINLESS**

**ANGTORIA**, the new Swedish / British orchestral Metal band formed by female singer Sarah Jazebel Deva (**CRADLE OF FILTH**, **THEIRON**, **MORTIS**), composer Chris Rehn (**ABYSSOS**) and Tommy Rehn (**MOAHNI**, **MOAHNA**), have announced the addition of **CRADLE OF FILTH** bassist Dave Pybus and **MY OWN GRAVE** drummer John Henriksson to the group's lineup. Both Pybus and Henriksson participated in the making of the band's recent video for the track „God Has a Plan for Us All“ with up-and-coming, award-winning Swedish director Mens Berthas, while Pybus also made an appearance on the group's debut CD of the same name

Season Of Mist are happy to announce that the upcoming album by legendary Norwegian Black Metalists **MAYHEM** will once again be handled and crafted by them. This unholy alliance has been fighting together for more than 7 years already and yet there is no end in sight. „Ordo Ab Chao“ will then be **MAYHEM**'s 3<sup>rd</sup> full-length on the French label. The band also states that „after the troubled „Chimera“, some conditions and issues have changed for the better. We are very focused and eager to record our first album (since '93) with Attila Csihar back behind the microphone. The beast has never been stronger“. Prepare for a totalitarian piece of chaotic Black Metal

Murder Metalers **MACABRE** have been announced as the headliners of the Central Illinois Metalfest, set to take place July 20-22 at The Canopy Club in Urbana, IL, USA. Also scheduled to appear are **ORIGIN**, **HUMAN ARTIFACTS** and **DOMINATION THROUGH IMPURITY**, among many others

Norway's Thrashers **AUDIOPAIN** will delight us with a new album very soon! Like the fronter Sverre said himself, „we aim for a release in May...“. We suggest [www.yendius.com](http://www.yendius.com) as the place where further news is to come

**DAGOBA**, whose successful European tour as opening act for **IN FLAMES** and **SEPUTURA** is nearing its end, has been confirmed for the ninth edition of the

**RAISMESFEST**, set to take place in the park of „Le Chateau de la Princesse d'Arenberg“, Raismes, France, on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Other bands confirmed are **ADAGIO**, **ANDROMEDA**, **EPICA**, **FREAK KITCHEN**, **GREEN CARNATION** and **WATCHA**

Finnish Death Metal band **TOTAL DEVASTATION** has entered Sound Supreme Studio to begin recording their third album, entitled „Wreck“. The follow-up to last year's „Reclusion“ will include 11 songs.

Legendary Death Metalers **AUTOPSY** will release their long-awaited posthumous double DVD „Dark Crusades“, on May 22. „Unfortunately, due to length problems, we have had to trim some of the content,“ reads a Peaceville press release. „It still runs at 3 hours and is filled to bursting with almost everything they ever filmed ... a must for fans!“

What's undoubtedly the most relevant signing in the Xtrem Music's 5-year history!! This is no other than the mighty super-cult US Thrash / Heavy Metal band **HALLOW'S EVE!!** Having released three classic albums on Metal Blade from '85 to '88, the band returned in 2005 with a self-financed 4th album entitled „Evil Never Dies“ which has passed quite unnoticed due to the lack of real promotion and distribution, so the band finally signed a deal with Xtrem Music for a worldwide release that will secure a proper exposure for this long awaited return

**NECROMANCY** from Bolivia re-released their 2 demos („Satan Crush Useless God!!“ and „Into Apocalipsis“) via Diabolous Productions, and these are limited to 300 and 500 copies respectively. Check [www.diabolousproductions.tk](http://www.diabolousproductions.tk) out for more details.

Italian Death Metal legends **HORRID** who formed back in '92 and released various demos, EP's, a mini CD and one album during their career, have inked a deal with Xtrem Music for the release of their second album „Rising From The Hidden Spheres“. Recorded in Denmark at Starstruck Studios with Anders Lundmark (**KONKHRA**) as producer, the album includes 8 songs in the usual tradition of the band since their inception, this is: total Swedish Death Metal worship!! With a 100% Swedish sound, any lover of bands like early **DISEMBER**, **CARNAGE**, **ENTOMBED**, **GOD MACABRE** and the likes, will find on this album a perfect way to go back to the golden days of the original Swedish Death Metal scene.

USA's Ambient enthrallers **EQUIMANTHORN** are currently working on their new album which is to be released via From Beyond. Source: [www.displeasedrecords.com](http://www.displeasedrecords.com)

„Goatcraft Torment“, the latest release from Norway's Black Metalers **URGEHAL**, is scheduled for June 26<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, Agonia Records will re-release the band's „Atomkinder“ and „Through Thick Fog till Death“ albums on limited picture discs in July.

Opposing to the mention in the **OLD** interview that you'll find in this Brutalica issue, the band's debut full-length is scheduled for **OCTOBER** and will carry the title „Down with the Nails“. Get back for further news from the TS camp here: [www.peaceville.com](http://www.peaceville.com)

On March 25<sup>th</sup> 2006 Bulgaria's technical Thrash Metalers **WARTIME** recorded a 2-song demo. „Preordained Game“ and „The Drifter“ can be downloaded here: [www.wartime.cc](http://www.wartime.cc)

News from the website of Poland's brutal Death Metalers **AZARATH**: „Third album is now confirmed!!! The recording session of „Diabolic Impious Evil“ will take place in June 2006 again in Hendrix Studio Lublin with Arkadiusz „Malta“ Malczewski as engineer. The release date is Autumn this year“ Source: [www.azarath.tcz.pl](http://www.azarath.tcz.pl)

**DERANGED** gets a new vocalist. Here's a message from the band: „Due to personal and musical differences Calle Faldt is no longer neither the singer or bass player in **DERANGED**. New singer: Martin Schonherr. Auditions for bass player is being held! **DERANGED** won't play the Metaltasye Xmass fest this year as announced earlier. Instead they will be doing the Harvest tour in September and will be supporting **INCANTATION** all over Europe in November this year. **DERANGED** new album „Obscenitie sin B Flat“ is to be released on May 29. Watch out for this new piece of utter organic gore assault!

**GENERAL SURGERY** will release their long awaited debut album on 29<sup>th</sup> of May. Watch out for this

Screaming bloody gore item! „Due to difficulties in finding a replacement for departed vocalist Grant McWilliams, who, on amicable terms, left the ranks of **GENERAL SURGERY** several weeks ago, we are forced to announce that we must regrettably cancel the Pathology Over Europe Tour 2006. In further developments, the release of the album has also been postponed until May. Hopefully we can return to the road after we have found a new vocalist and the album has been released. We are extremely sorry that we can't make it this time and offer our sincere apologies to all involved.“

**FORLORN HOPE** from Sri Lanka have aborted the recordings on their new EP, but the work on the band's full-length debut „Diabolism“ continues. Expect results sometime in 2006.

Former **ANDREXIA NERVOSA** singer joins **TAMTRUM** on guestvox. Rose Hreidmar, frontman of the cult French Black Metal band **ANDREXIA NERVOSA**, is back. Hreidmar has been recording guest vocals for the brand new album „Elektronik Blak Mess“ - the misspelling is intentional - by French harsh black electro act **TAMTRUM**. Hreidmar, vocalist for French symphonic Black Metalers **ANDREXIA NERVOSA** quit the band in December 2005 after seven years.

**ARKHON INFAUSTUS** has finished the pre-recording of the fourth album that was recorded and mixed by Mathrien at Andromeda Studio and contains nine songs. The band will enter final studio in May, the album will be released on Osmose Productions before the end of the year. A limited gatefold double EP should be released in the meantime including a song from the upcoming album and some extra materials, exclusive to this EP.

Canada's **THESYRE** have just inked a deal with the French record label Osmose Productions. The band's third album and first for the label will be titled „Exist“ and is expected to be released later this autumn. In related news, **THESYRE** will soon team up with Norway's **AUDIOPAIN** to release a (limited) split 7" vinyl through the Norwegian label Worship Him Records

In a couple of weeks the Japanese label Obliteration will reissue **CSSO**'s collection CD (singles & previously unreleased material) done two years ago by FBP.

Danish war specialists **PANZERCHRIST**, who embody Reno Kilerich (ex-**DIMMU BORGIR** / **DEW-SCENTED**) on drums and Bo Summer (**ILLDISPOSED**) on vocals, have revealed the tracklist of their upcoming full length album, tentatively titled „Battalion Beast“. Drums, guitars and bass were all recorded at Studio Smart N. Hard with Jacob Bredahl (**HATESPHERE**) during February / March 2006. Vocals and keyboard were recorded by Ziggy at studio Zigsound. The latter was also responsible for mixing and mastering the album. „Battalion Beast“ is scheduled for a July release through Neurotic Records.

With great delight Neurotic Records unveils the latest addition to its ever growing artist roster, being New Zealand based **ULCERATE**. This young and innovative extreme Metal act deliver a very heavy form of technical Death Metal, while at the same time incorporating several elements from all kinds of different styles and genres of Metal. **ULCERATE**'s debut album, tentatively titled „Of Fracture And Failure“, which has been recorded and is currently in mixing stages, will positively surprise all sorts of fans of extreme Metal.

Relapse Records is proud to announce the signing of the cult Underground Grind / Metal band **THE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS**. **TCME** are a collection of real-life pathologists with an unhealthy adoration of and fixation on **CARCASS**. Formed by Dr. Morton Fairbanks M.D. (guitar) and Dr. Jack Putnam M.D. (drums), the band rounded out by 63-year-old Dr. Guy Radcliffe have always felt that the label „Carcass Clone“ should be a badge of honour and distinction, and pursue that emulation with an almost religious zeal. **THE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS** is currently nearing completion of its next full-length record „Oblivious Operettas“ (the band's first recorded discharge in three years). „Oblivious Operettas“ is scheduled for a fall release. **TCME** have previously released one full-length and a split album (w/Sweden's **GENERAL SURGERY**) via Razorback Records

„Asantusta Aatma“, the first demo of Nepal's Black Metalers **CRUENTUS**, is available to download from the band's website at [www.geocities.com/asantustaatma](http://www.geocities.com/asantustaatma). The „Downloads“ section features also 2 live tracks and

a bunch of concert videos.

„Aeons Past“ will be the title of **ELEMENT**'s debut full length release. Vocals were just finished up and Matt at Legion Studios is working on the mix. Look for a summer 2006 release date!

**INCINERATE** have announced the title of their long awaited second full length „Anatomize“. **INCINERATE** have started the recording in late April and the mastering will be handled by Colin Davis at Imperial Mastering. Jordan Varela (**LUST OF DECAY**, **DOMINATION THROUGH IMPURITY**, **LIVIDITY**) will be performing behind the drum kit on this one. Their upcoming second full length is due out July 31, 2006. The band is still looking for a full time drummer for shows, fests, and touring - get in touch if you are interested: [incinerate@incinerategod.com](mailto:incinerate@incinerategod.com)

The Spew Records announced that **MUMAKIL** will take part to „The sick the dead the rotten part II“ split CD with **OBTOUSE** and **THIRD DEGREE** in substitution of **MIGRA VIOLENTA**, that unfortunately had no chances to record something in a reasonable time for the release date. **MUMAKIL**, one of the most promising Metallic Grind bands around, comes from Geneva (Swiss) with members coming from bands such as **NOSTROMO** and **KNUT**.

Militant Death Metal infantry **ARGHOSLENT** will be reissuing their debut album, „Gallop Through the Battle Ruins“ on October 25<sup>th</sup> through Moribund Records. Caustic and crude yet classy and complex, this reissue is mandatory for all non-posers. Likewise, the band's unsurpassed, poser-killing second album, „Incorrigible Bigotry“, is still available

Having previously released a well-regarded MCD on Blackmetal.com, recent Moribund signing **CATACOMBS** is the latest project from Satanic Doom mastermind J. Del Russi, formerly of the cult **HIEROPHANT**. Reportedly, the first of two CDs has already been recorded, and massive is an understatement. As this is the Moribund's first pure Doom signing, expect funeral dirge highly recommended for fans of **ESOTERIC**, **DISEMBOWELMENT**, **UNHOLY**, **SKEPTICISM**, and even early **GODFLESH** ... your life will be ruined upon this stone-crushing release!

The enigmatic **KROHM** will be reissuing its two releases, the „A World Through Dead Eyes“ album and the „Crown of the Ancients“ MCD (with „Slayer of Lost Martyrs“ as bonus!) on November 8<sup>th</sup> via Moribund Records. The sole vision of Numinas (aka Dario Derna, drummer of **DRAWN AND QUARTERED**), as well as former member of **EVOKEN** and **ABAZAGORATH**, expect utterly cult, unearthly Black Metal ala early **MANES** and prime **BURZUM** ... the return of misery & comfort!

**SHADE EMPIRE** signed to Dynamic Arts Records. Their debut album „Synthetic“ (Avantgarde Music) received very good impact from press and fans in 2004. Now **SHADE EMPIRE** is heading forward with their upcoming releases and co-operation with DAR. First release is the CD single „Slitwrist Ecstasy“ from the upcoming second album „Intoxicate O.S.“. You can expect massive orchestral parts mixed to Dark / Black Metal.

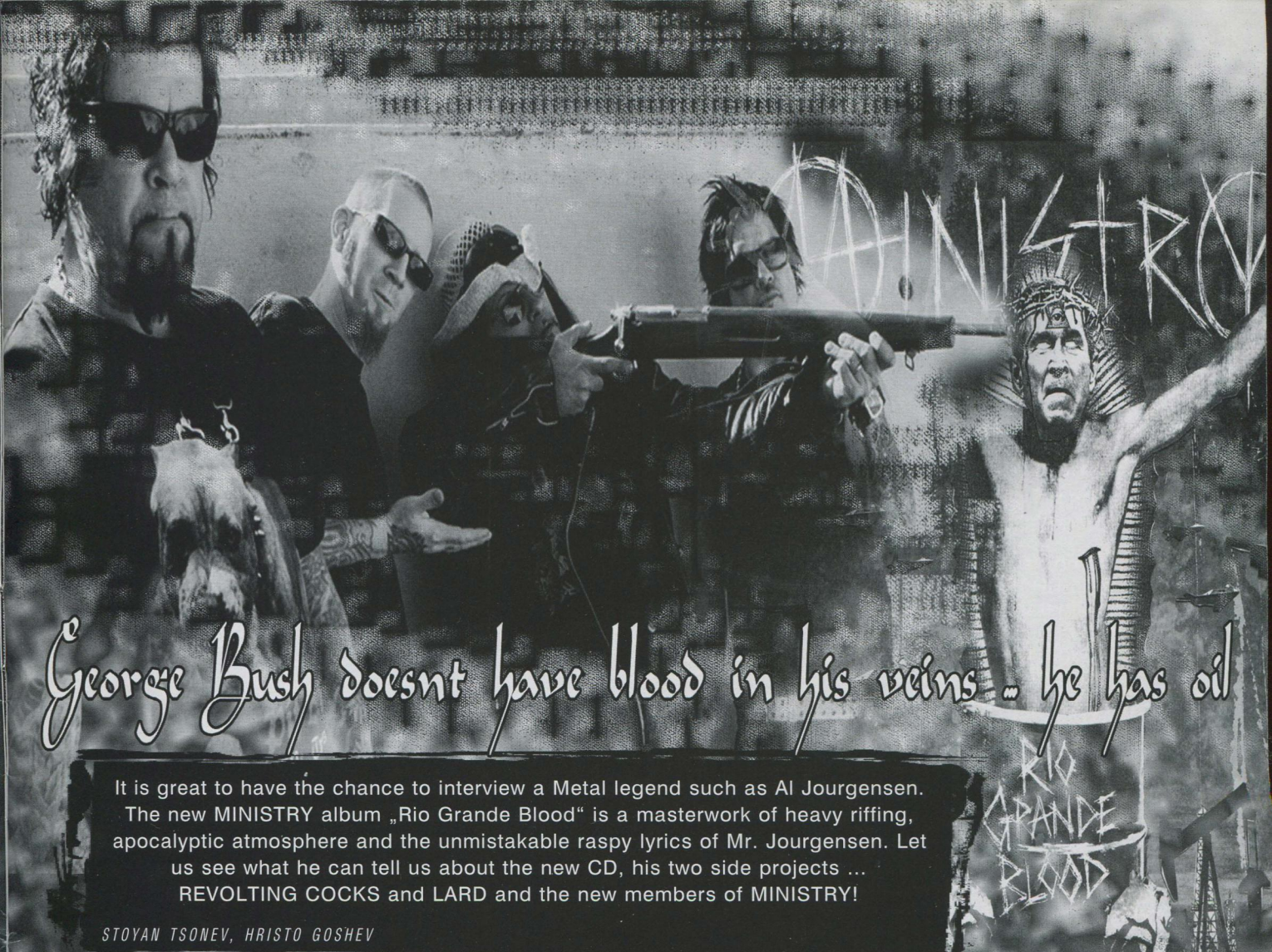
**SILENTIUM** has been chosen to play in Armania festival, Sibiu, Romania July 14-16 along with **HIM**, **AMORPHIS** and **CARMEN GRAY**. Armania Festival includes besides the Metal/Rock concerts other interesting events such as visual art exhibitions, film screenings, classic music performances, lectures, workshops and others.

Kai Hahto has left **ROTTEN SOUND** in order to concentrate more on his family and other band **WINTERSUN**. His replacement is Sami Latva of **DEATHBOUND** fame.

Finnish Metalers **INSOMNIUM** are currently recording their new album at Fantom Studio. Some crystal clear and yet brutal sounds are to be expected since Phantom is the name behind some of the best albums ever produced in Finland. The release date for the new album „Above The Weeping World“ is scheduled for October 2006.

Dutch x-treme Metalers **CALLENISH CIRCLE** are invited to support **CRADLE OF FILTH** on their exclusive Benelux club show. The show will take place on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> of June in the main hall of the new Effenaar venue in Eindhoven, The Netherlands. **CRADLE OF FILTH** will embark on a festival tour and this will be their only Benelux club date on which **CALLENISH CIRCLE** will play as exclusive support act.





# George Bush doesnt have blood in his veins ... he has oil

It is great to have the chance to interview a Metal legend such as Al Jourgensen. The new MINISTRY album „Rio Grande Blood“ is a masterwork of heavy riffing, apocalyptic atmosphere and the unmistakable raspy lyrics of Mr. Jourgensen. Let us see what he can tell us about the new CD, his two side projects ... REVOLTING COCKS and LARD and the new members of MINISTRY!

STOYAN TSONEV, HRISTO GOSHEV

Hello Al! It's an honor to speak with you man! Congratulations on such a great album as „Rio Grande Blood“. How do you feel now after the album is done?

Relieved, ha-ha!! I finally get some sleep. I've been working pretty hard on that record and the REVOLTING COCKS one, that's coming out next month. I did two albums during the last six months, so it's nice to finally have a couple of days off.

The new CD of MINISTRY is probably the most metallic one we've ever heard. Can you agree with that?

I absolutely agree, yeah!

What was the reason for you to pursue this sound?

It's because of the new people I have in the band. We recorded it in a different way. Instead of recording it on computers in the studio, like a lot of the MINISTRY stuff, we just jammed out as a band. The two new members are Paul Raven on bass from KILLING JOKE and Tommy Victor from the band PRONG. Between the three of us, we wrote this very quickly because we work really well together.

And what will you tell to the fans that prefer the softer and pure Industrial music from your earlier albums?

I'll tell them to fuck off!!

Ha-ha!! Alright.

Ha!! Yeah!

Would you explain the title of the second song? What are the lyrics about?

„Senor Peligro“ is the nickname that the Venezuelan President Ugo Chaves has for President Bush. „Senor Peligro“ means „Mister Danger“ and Ugo Chaves would not even refer to Mr. Bush by name ... he only calls him „Senor Peligro“. Yeah, this is true! Hal With reference to that, you, along with Blackie Lawless of W.A.S.P. and Dave Mustaine of MEGADETH are often cited with interesting views on politics. In your opinion, is there a country where people are free to speak out their minds? Does freedom of speech exist?

I guess we're gonna find out when this record comes out, ha-ha-ha!!! I guess that would be a pretty good indication of whether we have freedom of speech or not.

„Rio Grande Blood“ is the second album of MINISTRY without Paul Barker. Why did he leave?

I guess he just wanted to stay home with his kids, as they are growing up, so it was like ... „See you later“.

As you mentioned, a new album of REVOLTING COCKS is also coming out soon. How do you feel about this release?

Ah, REVOLTING COCKS is just a party ... recording it, and it's just a party-record. It was a lot of fun to do and we had a lot of interesting people on this new one ... Billy Gibbons of ZZ TOP, Rick Nielsen of CHEAP TRICK, Jello Biafra of DEAD KENNEDYS, Gibby Haynes of BUTTHOLE SURFERS, so it's a pretty interesting and fun record. It's the very opposite of MINISTRY ... REVOLTING COCKS is all about dirty jokes, sexism and stupidity ... everything that MINISTRY isn't. So there's a nice dichotomy there.

And what happened to LARD ... your other side project?

Well, as soon as we're done with this MINISTRY tour, Jello and I are starting a new LARD album ... finally! I've done so much this year ... a lot of recording, but as soon as the tour is over, I will get down to LARD.

OK, let's get back to the new MINISTRY album. The cover artwork is once again very controversial. What is your idea behind it?

Well, George Bush doesn't have blood in his veins ... he has oil. That's what he lives for, that's what he kills for and that's what it's all about. Texas is the largest producing oil state in the United States, that's where he is from and that's where I live. The Rio Grande river runs through the state and our nickname for oil is „Rio Grande blood“.

Let me ask you ... are you a religious person?

I'm a spiritual person but I don't know if I adhere or follow any certain religion.

What can you tell me about the upcoming tour?

The lineup is Paul Raven on bass, Tommy Victor on guitar, Mike Scaccia ... our one-time guitar player is on the other guitar, Joey Jordison of SLIPKNOT is our drummer, so it should be a very interesting lineup. The tour starts on May 5<sup>th</sup> in the United States and then we're gonna be in Europe from July 29<sup>th</sup> until August 19<sup>th</sup>. And I guess we're playing Bulgaria this time!

Yeah! It would be fantastic!

This band is really good. It's the best band I've ever had. We will kick ass ... I'll put it that way!

How did you catch up with Joey? Is he a fan of yours?

Yeah, exactly. We've known each other for the last 8 years and SLIPKNOT were getting a year off of recording. Joey said ... fuck it off man, with a lineup like that, I wanna play drums and he's onboard. Great fuckin' drummer!

Yeah, absolutely! I guess that was it. Do you have anything to say in conclusion?

We'll see in Sofia!!



# TENEBRAE IN PERPETUUM

**Atratus:**

**"Deep Underground" means total unknown bands, according to me!**

"Antico Misticismo" is the first ever record that I'm hearing from Italy's TENEBRAE IN PERPETUUM and what I could basically say is that these guys sound like totally dedicated to the music they have chosen to play on their turn and I foresee that this CD is to be gladly joined in the album collections of numerous fans worldwide! Personal impressions of the replies of Atratus (aka Frozen Glare Smara - BEATRIK): this interview shaped out as another perfect proof that playing cold and obscure Black Metal doesn't necessarily go hand in hand with arrogance.

VANYA MARINOVA

What "Antico Misticismo" first impresses with is its defiantly reticent atmospheres. Then again, what sort of emotions ruled you while working on the album?

Since the birth of the band in 2001, TENEBRAE IN PERPETUUM's music has always been inspired by our deepest and most obscure emotions and by the contemplation of Nature's obscurity. This album, more than our other previous releases (maybe excluding the first demo tape "The Black Flame's Age"), was inspired by the periods of mysticism I live sometimes.

Are you satisfied with the end result actually or do you think that you could have dedicated some more time to some moments?

Yes, I'm still quite satisfied about the final sound. I've been working on recordings and mixing sessions for a long time and now we can easily find the sound we were looking for at the beginning. The most difficult aspect, when we record some new work, is to find a good sound for the vocals, and in this album we're not completely satisfied about this aspect. Excluding this small problem, we are very satisfied 'cause this album is cold and hateful as we wanted it to be. The production of "Antico Misticismo" is rather austere and this, in my opinion, contributes a lot to the more dismal sound of the tracks on the CD. Did you intentionally go for this or was it limited finances what has been all about?

Well, we don't like most of the professional studio sound that some Black Metal band choose for their releases. There are a few studios able to forge a good Black Metal sound and all these studios are very far from us! However, we can find our own sound likewise. I think a pure Black Metal album MUST have a total cold and obscure sound and I think "Antico Misticismo" is cold and dark as it deserved to be. This is very important for us.

TENEBRAE IN PERPETUUM is going to be joined with a track in the compilation CD to the

Brutalica upcoming issue ... have you been featured in other compilations before and, in case you have been, did this help TIP with starting to be known to a wider circle of listeners? Or could it be that you prefer staying deeper underground?

We were featured in a couple of compilations during the first times but they were very small and Underground releases. No more than a few hundred copies spread, I guess. Sincerely I don't know if the tracks on these compilations was/are good for us. Sometimes, featuring on compilations and too big promotion isn't so good, in my point of view. I'm not interested to sell 10 / 20.000 copies, I'm more interested in getting the respect of the fans. I like very much the deepest Underground Scene. "Deep Underground" means total unknown bands, according to me!

CARPATHIAN FOREST, DARKTHRONE, VELES and GODLESS NORTH are among the bands that have inspired you to start playing music on your turn... And what do you think about VENOM, HELLHAMMER or the earliest BATHORY works?

It could seem strange but I don't know BATHORY's music very well and I have almost never listened to VENOM. Instead I like HELLHAMMER and CELTIC FROST but their music doesn't influence us directly. However, I like very much the 80's sound and attitude even if I don't know so many bands. I listen to OBSCURITY, early MERCILESS, NECRODEATH, POSSESSED, TORMENTOR, etc. Those are killer!

And is it actually easy to be involved with a Black Metal act, when the Scene nowadays is seriously overcrowded with bands referred to this very genre?

Yes, nowadays there are really too many bands in the Scene and sometimes it's quite hard to emerge among these hundreds of acts. I think the guiltier of this situation are the labels, helped by internet, of course. Nowadays there are too

many labels that allow bands to release their shitty albums and the average quality is very low, I think. Some time ago, when there was no internet, the Underground was less overcrowded and it was easier to follow the Scene. Nowadays it's impossible, I guess.

Your country gave birth to extreme Metal acts with a cult status at present (BULLDOZER, NECRODEATH and OPERA IX, to name a few).

Does this make you feel proud of being born and raised in Italy yourselves?

Every country has its historical bands and Italy has some cult horde too. It could be quite strange but I don't know most of these bands. I like early NECRODEATH and unfortunately I didn't listen to BULLDOZER yet (except one song only). I know Avantgarde will repress a SCHIZO album soon (another cult Italian band) and I'll get it for sure.

Bands that succeed in earning money for a living with playing music are quite few actually... Have you ever dreamt to see TENEBRAE IN PERPETUUM as one of these bands one day or do you assume that WORKING as a musician might kill the thing, in your case at least?

Sometimes I think it should be great to live thanks to my music but I know it's impossible, especially for an Italian Black Metal band. As I said before, there are too many bands on the Scene...

How does it feel to be asked what exactly your lyrics deal with? Do you go for discussing them thoroughly or do you dryly advise the interviewer to give them another read instead?

As usual I don't like speaking about our lyrics very much. However, the lyrics tell us about the same topics that inspire me for the music: hate, Nature's darkness, cold landscapes, solitude and isolation, moments of mysticism, obscure and sick dreams and visions, etc.

have always had the feeling that musicians, while listening to other people's works, concen-

trate on the performance skill phase rather than on the atmosphere itself... Is there anything like that indeed?

Absolutely not, the atmosphere is the most important thing in obscure music, for me. I'm not very interested in technical bands but I'm very attracted by several funeral Doom and some dark Ambient bands and you know this kind of music doesn't need any skilled musician. In TENEBRAE IN PERPETUUM's music the atmosphere is also more important than the technique.

Which releases for 2006 are you most impatient to check out? Do you listen to music other than Black Metal, by the way?

I'm less interested in the Black Metal Scene these last years so, I'm not really impatient to listen to any new album in particular. My favourite bands are the unknown bands and my favourite format is the 7"EP. For me into all EPs there is the true Underground Black Metal spirit, especially for the unknown bands. During the last months I'm quite interested in South American hordes 'cause I think there is a very honest and brutal Scene in those places. Neither posers nor rock-stars, like in Europe during the mid of the 80s. Yes, I listen to other music also. As I said before, I like funeral Doom (WORSHIP, SKEPTICISM, MOURNFUL CONGREGATION, THERGOTHON, etc) and some dark Ambient bands (DESIDERII MARGINIS, RAISON D'être, LETUM and few others) and I often listen to sad and majestic classical music. Sometimes I re-listen to the Death Metal albums I liked some years ago.

Future plans? Thank you...

We haven't any upcoming releases planned at the moment, except the vinyl version of our last album that should be out in April / May 2006. Probably we will start to write some new songs for the third T.I.P.'s album that could be out in 2007. Thanks to you for your support!



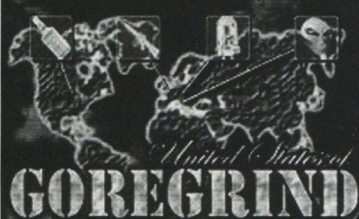


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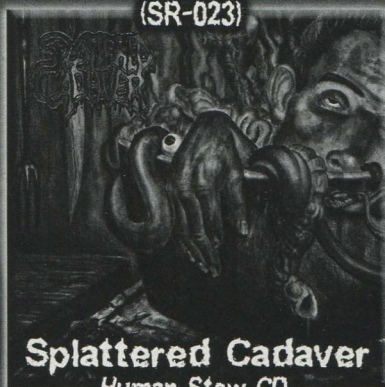


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(SR-027)



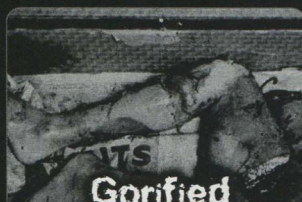
## Bleeding Display

Ways To End CD

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OUT IN MAY 2006!!!!

(SR-028)



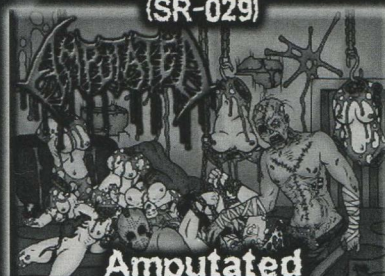
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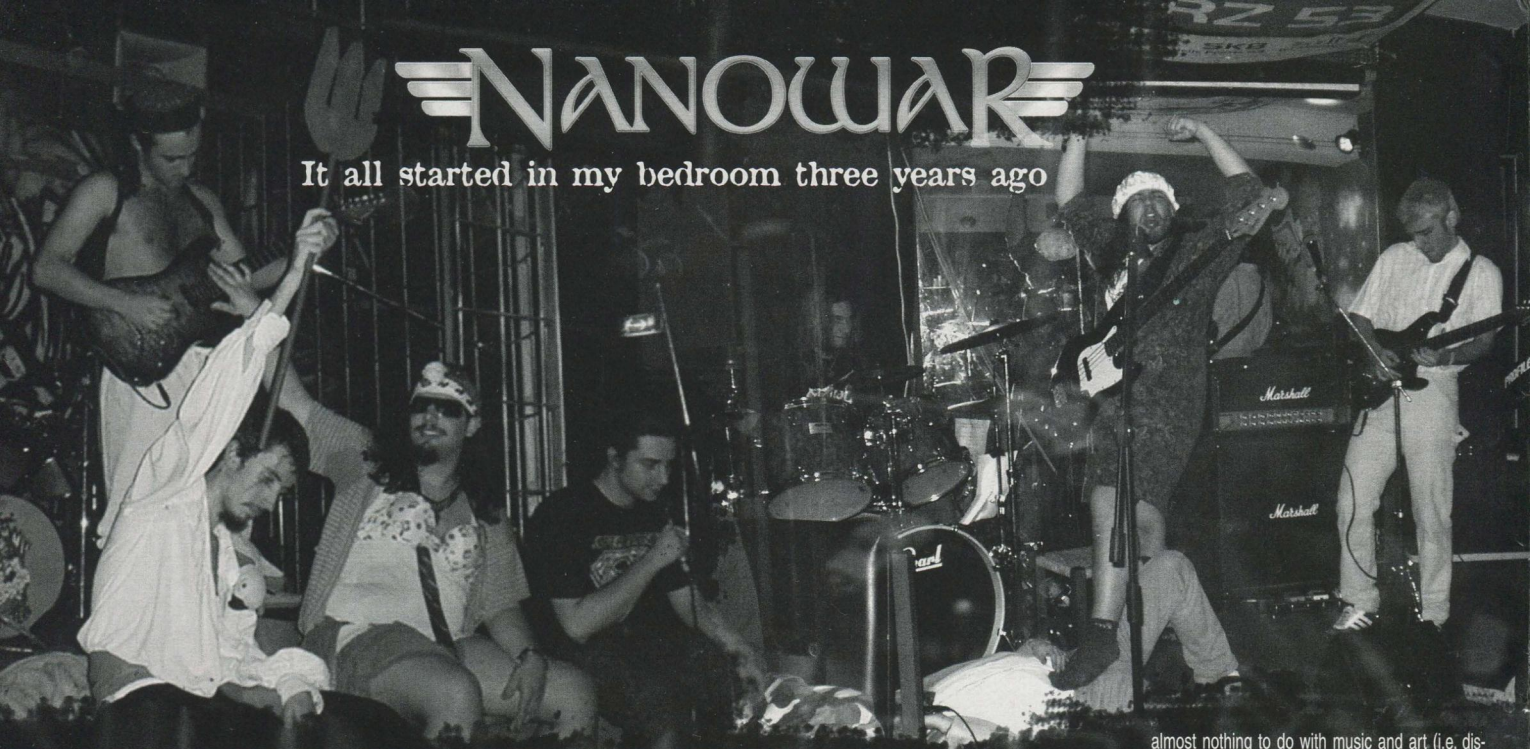
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# NANOWAR

It all started in my bedroom three years ago



**Well, sounds strange, but it really started in somebody's bedroom. Maybe it was just some funny idea that grew into a band with several releases behind their backs. These guys are seriously trying to bring back the fun in Metal. Let's give them some attention and hey dude, the Pope wasn't really our fault... ha-ha.**

IVAILO TONCHEV

Hello and would you like to tell something about the history of MANOWAR, oooops, I meant NANOWAR... How did you come with the idea to bring your band to life?

Gatto Panceri 666: Hello! Our history is veeery simple: it all started in my bedroom three years ago (no, I was not doing any strange games involving my hands and my genitals)... I was staring at MANOWAR's lyrics & music, so incredibly non-rich and non-complex... their songs were so terribly non-various and non-technical, I just couldn't think of anything more non-various and non-technical... except NANOWAR, the band I formed here in after in order to be less various, rich, complex and technical than MANOWAR actually are.

**Heavy Metal was the music that formed my taste and made my day back in the 80s. I even liked MANOWAR a lot, then I sort of grew them up. Why did you pick up the old school Heavy Metal music and gave it a new meaning? After a few spins of your album, I still consider it to be damn good and yet, it is too "light" for the (usually) grim cliché of the genre and there is too much pink on the cover... Is this an attempt to make something different or just a joke? Or just good clean fun?**

Gatto Panceri 666: I'd say that we just wanna have some fucking fun! And possibly conquer the world! (this sentence just couldn't miss here) **NANOWAR... not only kings of Metal, but masters of the world and ...? What are your ideas for the future world order? Are you happy with the current one...?**

Gatto Panceri 666: We are the prime ministers of Uzbekistan and head of the dept. for the foreign affairs of the Bahamas Islands. The actual future world order is too good for us, it should be worse (just kidding).

**Speaking of the cover, the pink colors, the word "gay" and the obvious Village People / MANOWAR remake: how do these three meet at the NANOWAR design department?**

Gatto Panceri 666: TRUE METAL (MANOWAR) + GAYNESS (Village People) = GAY TRUE METAL (NANOWAR)

**What is your attitude towards gay people then?**

Gatto Panceri 666: Oh well, we just think anybody can do anything he wants to with his own butt, just like we do!

**Is there sort of a "message" behind your**

**band? Many artists used their music to promote ideas and views on life, what about you? "Better pizza than happy meal". It is a thing I agree with.**

Gatto Panceri 666: Then you should also agree with "Let him who hasn't a girlfriend go and call the number of the bitch" or "Kings Metal power true steel oh yeah" or "Brothers of the power true Metal of the kings"... we try to convey our deep philosophical views on life through our lyrics, these are just some examples of what they are. Seriously speaking, if there is something we want to say with our music - I'd call it a meta-message - it's just that after all we shouldn't take things (e.g. Heavy Metal Music) too seriously! Or one day we might wake up with pard underpants or spikes and face painting!

**Have you ever thought about a name for your style of music? I can sell you one. What do you think about "context charged collage Metal"? There are many hidden signs in your album, many links to classic Metal tunes / bands / lyrics... Was it on purpose? Do you think it might be a bit hard for the contemporary listener to "open" all the "codes" in your album?**

Gatto Panceri 666: That definition isn't bad, except for the fact that I don't like it. About the codes... we just put all the ideas we have wherever we want to, of course we do it on purpose... by the way, there are also so many codes related to Italy and Italian language that foreign listeners cannot open! But, you know... we just record and do whatever passes through our minds without thinking of codes, listeners, cows, HN51 and Santa Claus.

**Have you ever had any feedback from bands like MANOWAR, IRON MAIDEN, METALLICA...? "The Number of the Bitch" is a classy remake of "The Number of the Beast" that any IRON MAIDEN fan would appreciate. But still, have you ever had any negative reactions from bands / individuals about your album? People really lack a sense of humour sometimes.**

Gatto Panceri 666: No! We haven't got any feedback from these bands yet, I guess we're just too "small" to be considered by them... But we do receive threats and menaces from Metalheads all around the world, of course! And from Neapolitans, too!

**By the way, an important question: we forgot to mention that you have released an album**

**already (oh boy, I have just reviewed it!!). I noticed that you have released it by yourselves. It is a topic, that has always been of interest for me... what is better - to be released by a label or to release your band on your own? In Bulgaria it is better to do a release of your own, what about Italy? Is it hard to run a label on your own and take care of promotion, distribution and all the related stuff? What is the feedback?**

Gatto Panceri 666: Well, I'm quite convinced that with internet and file sharing (which I fully support, by the way) labels will slowly lose their meaning and usefulness... I mean, as the manager of the band, I see that you can sell a good amount of copies and organize a good number of shows without intermediate people doing this stuff for you... not even nearly as many as you could do with a label, but that's enough for now. And of course it takes a lot of time, money and energy, but it's worth it. We're having a really good feedback by Metalheads and press. In Russia several writers from magazines and webzines voted our album as one of the best of 2005, I receive fan mails and CD orders almost everyday, we have had over 50 positive reviews worldwide, we reduced inflation to 1.2%, we raised job incomes by 3.9%, we cut off public deficit by 11.3%...uhm... I guess we'll have to start a political party! Anyway, talking of Italy...well...our scene is quite strange, I'd say... I couldn't tell you if it would be better to be released by a label (it probably is), I can just tell you that booking agencies own our "live" scene, so it is to them you have to relate to if you want to play live - which is the best and biggest part of "being a band".

**File sharing and internet... do they kill music or it is just a matter of a new policy of the record labels?**

Gatto Panceri 666: I believe that file sharing is definitely a very good thing, I mean, I share our stuff on eMule and I put plenty of files to download on our website. And in our case that definitely worked! We're having a good feedback from people all around the world without any label or management, and we all owe almost all of this to the internet & file sharing! Then, there are also lots of people who downloaded our albums from the internet and then bought them from our website and at our live shows... File sharing doesn't kill music at all, it "kills" all the other people who have

almost nothing to do with music and art (i.e. distributors and labels) but nonetheless feed on it. I believe that the only policy which might save labels from the internet would be to sharply decrease CD prices and change the actual mechanisms of distribution. Anyway, the first aim of a musician would be to have his own music "listened" and not to earn too much on it, so I believe that bands shouldn't worry too much about this... **Playing live... how can you describe a NANOWAR concert? Do you have any special scene costumes?**

Gatto Panceri 666: About our shows... well, it's quite hard even to call it a concert... and it's just harder to describe it! Imagine five good musicians playing good songs in front of a huge crowd... well we've nothing to do with such a thing!!! About our costumes... of course we have them! I'll tell you a little bit about them. We're all dressed up like Walt Disney's characters: Potowotominimak is a pirate from "Peter Pan", Baffo is "Snow White", Abdul is "Alladin", Uinonaraider is "Wart" from "The Sword in the Stone" and I am Cinzia the Transsexual (it's an upcoming Disney movie).

**Paying some attention to the lyrics... who wrote them? There are some nice hits, like the above-mentioned "The Number of the Bitch", that really made me laugh. What turns a lyric into "a good lyric", according to you?**

Gatto Panceri 666: Well, first of all thank you for having defined the words we sing "lyrics" :) By the way, I'm glad that "The Number of the Bitch" made you laugh, it made me laugh too the first time I wrote it! A good lyric... well, good lyrics are either "philosophical / poetical" like DEATH, NEVER-MORE or DARK TRANQUILLITY's ones, either nonsense-demented ones like the ones from ANAL CUNT! We just don't write "good lyrics"... we just arrange words in order to make people laugh!

**Bruttalica is a Bulgarian magazine, so we are kind of keen on asking one and the same question in every interview - "What do you know about Bulgaria?"**

Gatto Panceri 666: What do I know? Well, you're a former USSR communist ally... What else... your secret services were involved in Pope's John Paul II's shooting during the 80s... then uhm... I always confuse your country with Hungary!

**Any final words, comments and ... It's your turn here!**

Gatto Panceri 666: Aaaaaaaahhf ei pif ripri www.nanowar.it preip r jewif TRUE bobbydan STEEL iweofjwie ipei AAAAAAA sfinere fi q10 449pur ghittocicchitto euffoi àà+ erù49 4 mutande à LF - cazzo cazzo cazzo. fro00 p0à0 4 (metal) wow how fun 1283498 oweif o208j123, elwjmmed' alano 120 qil ewdo jp i what an incredibly coded message (we often do it as you noticed before)



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# SPLITTER

From what I heard at their website, SPLITTER promise to become the new NASUM (rip) and this automatically attracts the attention, so from the lines below you will realize what the band thinks about the music business, new bands and, of course, some discussions of the new album „En Sorglig Historia“ are included too.

HRISTO BOYADJIEV

I was very happy to be asked from Chavdar of Brutalica Magazine to do an interview with a killer Grind Core band! You were totally unknown to me, as a name even, so let's start with this: who are SPLITTER?

The whole idea behind SPLITTER was founded around Christmas in 2003 by Timmy, Fredrik and Oskar. It all started like a joke, a lot of talk but no action. After some time we decided to make it happen and to give it 100%. The songwriting, especially the writing of lyrics was exceeding in early springtime 2004. We made some live performances and then added the second guitar player Niklas. Later in 2005 our old bassplayer quit and our current bassplayer Fredrik joined the band. Current Line-up: Fredrik Thalberg - vocals; Timmy Broden - guitar; Niklas Holm - guitar; Fredrik Holmqvist - bass; Oskar Pihl Hedberg - drums.

What I heard from your website appealed to me a lot! Would you tell me some more about the creation of your latest work „En Sorglig Historia“?

„En Sorglig Historia“ was recorded at studio Fredman, Gothenburg, Sweden. It has always been a dream for us to record in that studio since a lot of classic Metal albums were recorded there. For example: AT THE GATES „Slaughter of The Soul“. The Recording session went really well and we really got along with the producers. A lot of laughs, beer and of course a whole lot of music. „En Sorglig Historia“ is our strongest material so far. The songs are definitely stronger. They are faster and more brutal, but still catchy and groovy. It feels like we are starting to find a sound of our own. The songs were recorded live to get a good „feeling“ and the right amount of energy.

You exist barely since 2003, but for such a short period of time you proved that we will hear from you

more often. Can you reveal to me that secret of Swedish musicians: how can you, after 2 years of existence, sound like a band that has come up with 4-5 albums?

First of all, thank you for those kind words. We got a lot of good reviews on the „Vardagsengst“ MCD, and that's nice but if people think we are good we want to prove to them that we are even better. It's all about raising the bar and aim higher all the time. Setting up „checkpoints“ and „goals“ is the key to progress in SPLITTER and of course, keep an open mind.

Times ago a band needed to release 2-3 albums in order to find its style and to sound better, while we nowadays see bands which sound professional from the very beginning, their sound is least bombastic and their manner of composing is on a much higher level. Do you think that this is owing to technologies or do you think it is from this that today's kids develop more differently than those from the end of the 80s?

It's a matter of both better technology and the climate for young musicians today. It's much easier nowadays to make good recordings. You can make killer recordings with cheap equipment in your rehearsal space or in front of your computer. The second reason is that the climate for young musicians is much better, at least in Sweden. Almost every kid that wants to start a band can find a rehearsal place quite easily.

In relation to the previous question ... how do you see today's modern music, does it repeat the classics like, for example, CARCASS, NAPALM DEATH, MORBID ANGEL, TERRORIZER, or do we see really new and unique albums nowadays?

There are two different camps today. There are those that have the ambition to create truly unique music

Setting up „checkpoints“ and „goals“ is the key to progress in SPLITTER and of course, keep an open mind.

and those who write in the vein of the classic bands. We respect both sides and they are both needed.

Congratulations also on your still hot contract with Obscene Prods. Are you satisfied with it and how did it actually happen that a Swedish band signed with a Czech company?

We contacted Curby at Obscene Productions in hope of playing at Obscene Extreme Festival. He really liked our sound and booked us for the festival. We talked some more and agreed that SPLITTER would sign for Obscene. We are very happy and proud to sign with Obscene Productions. With Obscene we feel that we're going to get the support we need to bring the new generation of Swedish Grind Core to

the States. You got a point there. I think we have a different attitude here in Europe when it comes to business, being successful, making money and so on... maybe it has something to do with that.

Honestly speaking, I discovered for myself bands like NASUM and GADGET 1-2 years ago thanks to a label from... America. Is there a place for Grind Core in Sweden or is it more accentuated on the melodic Swedish Death Metal that is so modern nowadays? The Death Metal Scene is definitely bigger but the Grind scene is growing over here a lot thanks to NASUM (R.I.P.).

Today we witness a huge development in the Grind Core field, the bands play awesome, the sound in

all the Grind maniacs across the world.

Would you reveal some more details of the contract itself ... not numbers of course, but just some information of how it comes up to such a contract, what one should be careful with and so on... Say something from behind the scenes - I think that most bands that have recently taken this course would be very interested to learn exactly what surrounds these steps of a musician...

We haven't signed a contract in the usual meaning. Our contract is more of an oral agreement that we will deliver the music and they will release it. You can say we take advantage of each other with no strings attached. We get total freedom with our music and they get to release kick ass grindcore.

Every band in the beginning (and after that) dreams of being taken under the wing of a big label. Hypothetically speaking, would you like to be joined in labels like Earache or Peaceville? According to me, thanks to labels like these the modern Underground Scene started to exist... Or do you prefer such labels as Relapse that are currently growing on the other side of the ocean?

It all depends on the deal. A good deal from any of those labels would be interesting. We rather release albums the DIY-way instead of being stuck with a shitty deal and a label that don't care about us.

Speaking of the ocean: is there any difference about producing between Europe and the States? I have the observation that the material coming from America is more luxury and is surrounded by more advertising and promotion; as a whole it looks like it is all more about business out there (and the Underground has nothing to lose here, I think, because the bands that want to have cool CD covers, well made videos and well organized tours are too few)...

In Europe it's more of a „DIY-feeling“ compared to

most cases kills, many style mixes are also available (like using EMO and NEUROSIS approaches). How do you see the future of the Grind Core style? I really hope that it will be strongly up to SPLITTER anyway... The future of Grind Core looks really promising. A lot of good bands in an early stage, playing different styles of Grind Core. The Scene will grow for sure. And as the style continues to develop we think it gets a broader audience.

From interviews with other bands I realize that all this magic called a band is in fact business for the label, as for the band itself it is only the glory that remains, or something like that. Quite a few bands (even if being really famous ones) manage to earn money with music, so what is SPLITTER busy with when they don't compose music?

Working our asses off to survive and in the weekends party as hell, going to concerts and having a good time. Sunday is the day of hangover rehearsals. Monday: You return to your shitty dayjob and then it starts over. HAHA!

When should we expect a full-length?

Later this year. Right now we are writing songs for it.

I hope that you will come to Bulgaria one day? Do you know where our country is and do you know anything about it?

Yes, we know where it is but we don't know much about Bulgaria. It would be really nice to come and play in your country. We hope we can arrange that some time in the future.

Thank you for the interview, if you have something to add or if you simply want to say hi to the fans, this is the right time.

I'm not sure if we have got any fans in Bulgaria but cheers to all you Grinders, Punks and Metalheads of Bulgaria. A big thanks for this interview.





Hello Yazeed, how are you? How is the weather in Singapore now?

Morbid greetings Chavdar, I'm fine here. The weather is hot and humid over here and so are the chicks.

Your band CHAOS REGAL, even to me, was totally unknown but I was pleasantly surprised when I heard the two songs uploaded in your My Space section. What is the story of CHAOS REGAL and who founded the band?

I founded the band in December 2000 after I left DECIUS. It was difficult for me to find the right people to play in this band. I ended up calling my great friends, Iman and Andy from VRYKOLAKAS to help me out. Then I met Falmi (Dies Irae Productions) when he was still setting up his partial shop at Vrykosound Studio in June 2002, he told me he wanted to play in a band and I asked him whether he is interested. We jammed about a year together at the now defunct Vrykosound Studio after which Falmi left the band abruptly when Vrykosound Studio close down and make way for To Megatherion Studio. After that we had a guy called Rizal to handle the drums for a few months before Fauzzt joins us. Bands like SLAYER, MORBID ANGEL, POSSESSED, SARCOFAGO and ANGEL CORPSE are our influences.

I doubt that this is your first band ever - the songs sound very heavy and mature so I suppose that, if not all, at least some CHAOS REGAL members have been involved with other bands? Yes, in fact all four of us have been involved with other bands. Iman and Andy are still playing in VRYKOLAKAS, Fauzzt and me had played together in DECIUS before he joined IMPIETY. He also did the drumming for HAIL, AS SAHAR etc. Do you have any tracks other than the ones you have uploaded in My Space? How about any plans for a debut album or a split release with another local band at least?

We have some other tracks that we are going to use for future recordings. We are planning to release these 2 songs on a 7-inch vinyl somewhere this year.

CHAOS REGAL is the second Singaporean band that I take an interview from. The other was IMPIETY. Later they even signed to Osmose Productions, which was a surprise for me. When do you think CHAOS REGAL shall be ready to make something remarkable, or maybe I have to ask you if you have the intention to do something serious with this project?

It will take some time for us to achieve that. We are doing things one-step at a time. We are not

**To escape from the cliché ... that's what I want to do lately. What do I mean with that?! In most magazines, no matter if paper or web ones, bands from Asia and other distant places are quite often called exotic. I kind of don't like this word, for sounding sort of arrogant and underestimating even. I never have discriminated bands, regardless of where they come from - Indonesia, Malaysia or, in that very case, Singapore. Yes, CHAOSREGAL are from Singapore and they deserve attention despite that. That's why I would like to introduce you to them ... or, to say it this way, let's the music speak...**

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

in a rush for it. We will remain as a studio band for some time. Perhaps when the time is right for us to perform live, we shall perform. Besides the band, all of us have normal jobs.

Till this moment, have you played live and what were the reactions from the crowd? By the way, how are the Singaporean fans?

We have not played live before.

How is my old Singaporean friend Falmi and why did he lose the interest to play in CHAOS REGAL?

I think he's doing fine now. The last time I spoke to him was over the phone in January 2006. He just told me that he didn't have the time to dedicate himself to the band back then, as he was busy with his personal life. We are still friends though. I think he just got back to the "band thing" again with his Hard Core band - Stomping Ground and Sphere. That's what I heard. I guess it is a problem for every Metal band in Singapore when a member leaves it because the Scene there is small and it is hard to find musicians, right?

Yes, I agree with that. Only a handful of musicians are serious enough while many treat it like

a hobby and once they got married and settle down, they seem to fade away from the scene. I can't really blame them for that. Cost of living is expensive here in Singapore.

You also have your own distro & label ... Sepulchral Music. Tell here what kind of stuff you release and distribute through it?

Well we are only concentrating in distributing import CDs, T-shirts and magazines in Singapore and Malaysia. No plans to release bands albums at the moment. Some magazines that we help to distribute are Slayer (Norway), Ancient Ceremonies (Portugal), Sounds Of Death (U.S.A.), Chaos (Germany) as well as your excellent magazine, Brutalica!

I heard some time ago that you had problems to distribute Metal music in Singapore and in Malaysia! What is the situation now?

No problems in my country, Singapore but however in Malaysia, things just got worst when news about the MAYHEM Asian tour were announced recently. Thanks to the negative media hype, the government over there is considering whether to ban the genre completely. Since then it's quite hard for me to sell the

stuffs that I'm distributing to my Malaysian customers.

What is the situation with the recording studios in Singapore? A lot of studio equipment is made in Singapore so I guess there are very good studios, at least if we speak of equipment. But for Metal bands most important is the sound engineer, right?

So far, none of the studios here can match the standard of those in America and Europe. The studio that we recorded the 2 songs were done by 2 Metalheads who happen to work there but still they are not there yet, perhaps with time and experience these guys will progress. Even if you have the best equipments and studios; it's the sound engineer and the band that will make the difference.

Could you tell me which are the most important and valuable releases in your musical collection? SARCOFAGO ... „I.N.R.I.", POISON ... „Into The Abyss", SLAYER ... „Reign In Blood", METALLICA ... „Master Of Puppets", BLASPHEMY ... „Fallen Angel Of Doom", MORBID ANGEL ... from „Altars Of Madness" to „Covenant", DEICIDE ... „Legion", ANGEL CORPSE ... „Exterminate" and „The Inexorable", IMMOLATION ... „Harnessing Ruin", POSSESSED ... „Seven Churches", SADUS ... „Chemical Exposure" and the list goes on...

You are one of the most intense supporters of Brutalica Magazine over the years. Do you have some advices for us, maybe we can do some things better, in your opinion?

Everything looks good for your magazine. From time to time I can see that there is some improvement in terms of paper quality and content. Perhaps you guys can add in scene reports for different countries and adding a gallery page where you guys can put up photos of old bands. That would be killer! The only complaint about your magazine from me is that the sizes of certain fonts are too small, making it difficult for us to read.

OK, I think that's enough for the moment. Leave here some message to the thousands of fans who will read this interview!

Thank you Chavdar for the interview and the support that you gave us. Anyone who is interested to check us out can do so by logging to

<http://www.myspace.com/chaosregal>

Stay Dark & Unholy!!



Congratulations on your latest album! How was it accepted worldwide? Actually, is it important for you to know what people think about ARALLU in general?

Butchered: Hail from ARALLU!! First of all, thanks for your compliment.

Actually we really don't care what people think or say about ARALLU, we believe in something and we live with our beliefs. We know that there is many people from all over the world (including Israel) who don't really like our music and our lyrics. So what? We stop to play our music? NO way!! But also we know that there are many fans of ARALLU so we don't care and we still make our music. You started it all in '97 ... was it easy to find decent musicians that to work with and have you played in other bands before devising ARALLU?

Butchered: ARALLU is my first true and serious band I ever had, before ARALLU I played with some friends at some garages but ARALLU is the only band that I work so hard with.

Also, was it easy to spread your music outside your country in the very beginning? What I mean is that many people in the Black Metal circles are biased towards bands coming from Israel (I personally find that ridiculous, as true dedication has no fixed origin)...

Butchered: In the beginning yes, it was very difficult to spread the music outside of Israel. Today we have the internet and it's very easy, but in '97 - the time that we released the first demo, everything was by air mail and it was very slow and expensive. Today it's easier. I never get some bad mail because I'm from Israel ... on the contrary, it's very cool to be from a country like Israel and from the Middle East. It's very special and people like it. You combine raw Black / Thrash riffs with authentic Oriental rhythms and the outcome, in my ears at least, sounds unbelievably good! This, I presume, is the ARALLU members' way of paying tribute to the 80's extreme Metal Scene and expressing their pride of their ancient roots at the same time?

Butchered: Yes, that's exactly what we are doing, we grew up on the 80's Thrash Metal Scene. And also we like the power and the evil that is in the Black Metal Scene of the middle 90s. But our lyrics are not abutting upon the problem or the culture of Europe or the o.k. - our lyrics are about our situation in Israel and about our ancient culture. That's what made ARALLU unique and different from the other bands.

Now that I mentioned roots: is it easy to be involved with an extreme Metal band in Israel?

Butchered: No, we have a Metal scene in Israel but only "mainstream Metal". People in Israel prefer bands like OPTH, ORPHANED LAND, MEGADETH and more bands like that. We have here an extreme Metal scene but it's very small. We play the most extreme Metal that we can, and it's too sad to see that there are not too many people that really like this music, in Israel and in the whole world.

Unlike many outfits, you tend to reveal gladly such "spicy" details as the origin of your own band name, and one can also find at your website links to a Sumerian dictionary, The Book of Enoch, ancient language and scripts, etc... Don't you sometimes feel like you would like to keep something solely for yourselves? Or is forwarding all that info meant to prevent interviewers from asking same questions again and again?

Yonatan: Well, there is so much about our origins that you don't know, and even if we know a lot about it, we learn more and more each day. It is a very fascinating subject. We always answer all the questions in the interviews, even if we get the same ones, cause in each interview other people read it and we want to get to as much people as we can. As I mentioned asking: your top 3 of dumbest ARALLU-related questions of all times?

Yonatan: Wow, good question. We use a lot of subjects and we get many stupid questions such as: "Are you Arabs?" or "Do you worship Hitler?". I once saw in Tel Aviv a graffiti of ARALLU and a Swastika under it. Butchered is known as Moti ARALLU in the scene, people think it is a surname, and they ask us a lot what's the origin of Butchered's last name. Umm... it's actually an

**ARALLU: we'll never change or fuck up our style cause this is what we are and this is what we believe in!**

I heard about ARALLU back in 2003, when I was sent their "Satanic War in Jerusalem" album (featuring a stunning SLAYER cover), and from the very beginning this Israeli outfit left me totally fascinated of their unique sound built on the severity of Black / Thrash riffs and the archaic mysticism of traditional Oriental rhythms! "The Demon from the Ancient World", the band's latest creation, is not an exception at that point. Meet ARALLU, by reading the replies of the frontman Butchered and the drummer Yonatan!

VANYA MARINOVA

everyday thingy. Many people don't exactly know what we deal with and they hear many rumors, we try not to laugh at their faces and just explain exactly what the truth is.

I haven't watched the "Visual Chaos Invasion" DVD but, judging from the live photos at the ARALLU website, you look like you wreak a real havoc while being on stage! Maybe you could even tell us about some unforgettable occurrences from there? Have you also been offered to play outside Israel?

Yonatan: Yeah, the live shows are very, very extreme. Our concerts are very outrageous, from blood to wine, skull to bones, army flags and nets everywhere. We get really excited at each show and we bring the crowds the most of it. At the last show, the bass drum skin has ripped off, that was kinda crazy. At the first show, this dude went on stage and just stood there, Butchered kicked him

off the stage and he threw a chair on us, which led to the whole crowd beating him up. We usually try to bring guest singers to come on stage with us to do "Evil Has No Boundaries", "Witching Hour" and our songs. We smash the skulls, and drink the blood and the wine. This is REAL HAVOC, man.

"You will not hear ARALLU singing about war because they read books or saw many films about it, but because they live in the middle of it" ... that's what the Epidemie main page says about ARALLU, and this gives birth to the following question: have you ever felt like you're about to burst into laughter, whenever hearing the musicians of one or another North / West European Black Metal band singing about war and destruction, without having even the slightest clue of how it feels to live on the edge?

Yonatan: Umm, when we listen to the music of

bands that sing about war, we usually listen to the music and not to the lyrics, cause we know it ain't the same but when these bands are too fucking scared to come to Israel then we blast with laughing. Cause they show us their real faces behind the corpse paint and the swords. But, to tell you the truth, the music is what is important to us - also the lyrics, but the music is number one.

On the lyrical front, you guys are as outrageous as are the riffs that you forward to the listener; then again, which of music and lyric writing works better, when it comes to both self-expression and negativity outpush?

Yonatan: We always write lyrics, before and after an album, when we have something good we keep it. And you've gotta understand that the situation in Israel just helps us to fulfill what we wanna pass to the listener. The strong feelings are just there, you gotta know how to take them. And music, we are very musical people, we listen to it all the time and try to play as much as we can. We do projects all the time. Music is the main course for our lives. If you take away the music from us we'll fucking die, man.

Did you start working on new material already and are you continuing your collaboration with Epidemie Records?

Yonatan: We really enjoy working with Epidemie. We are in great contacts all the time and Martin (the owner) has just returned to the Czech Republic after visiting us here. He is great and everything is fair to us. There are negotiations about a tour and I think that Epidemie is good for ARALLU. It might be the best to stay there.

Your opinion of the World Extreme Scene at present?

Yonatan: We're just waiting for all the Metal / Core and brutal Fashion to die and the Black Metal Scene to rise again, like it used to be. But bottom line. Everything is good. More and more bands have been rising all the time and it's good to see new faces all the time. But, ARALLU will always be ARALLU. And we'll never change or fuck up our style cause this is what we are and this is what we believe in. Thanks a lot for the Interview and we hope to see you one day and to play in your country!

Website: <http://www.arallu.com>



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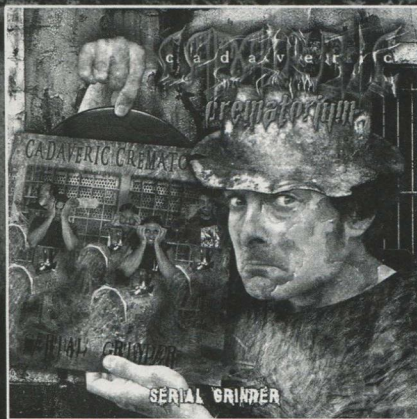
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How many Finnish bands do you know? I'm sure you can name immediately at least 20 bands from this country and 90% of them would be quality ones. Yes Finland has a lot of incredible Metal bands some of them you can often meet on the pages of the mainstream magazines. But now I'd like to introduce you a less known Finnish band ... UHRILEHTO. Maybe you have heard for them but you don't know much about their activity. If this is the case read this interview with Nidhogg. And don't forget to check out their latest album „Ihmisihiham Eliitti“, definitely it is worth listening.

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

To me UHRILEHTO is not an unknown name but in today's ocean of bands I guess there are a lot of people who haven't heard your name and music. So, let's start the interview with this - who are UHRILEHTO and what are their goals about?!

Nidhogg: Hello, UHRILEHTO is Dark / Black Metal band from Finland. Line-up is Nidhogg-vocals, Noirgrim-guitars, Essiah-bass and Cyclotron-drums. Our goals are to create music in our own way and get feelings from our heads to music.

In 2006 you turn 10 years of existence, which means you are quite a mature and skilled band. What have you done for these 10 years? Make a balance-sheet of these 10 years!

We have grown up as a band, but also as a people. We have become better musicians and our ideology has changed also from early days. When you are coming older, you see things in a different way. I am more open-minded in new things, but I have also frustrated many things in this life.

Why do almost all Black Metal bands have serious line up troubles? I guess it was the same with UHRILEHTO. Am I right?

Yes, you are right! I can't really remember how many members have left our band since we started playing music. Some members didn't like our ideology, one guy was convicted for crimes to prison, some guys didn't had a time to play. I am the only original member in the band. Our line-up will change to our next release, our old keyboard player Mylvor will join the band.

Could you tell me more about Watercastle Studio, about where is it located, equipment, sound engineers and costs? Which other bands except UHRILEHTO have recorded over there?

The sound of „Ihmisihiham Eliitti“ is very powerful! We have used Studio Watercastle almost every time when we have recorded something for UHRILEHTO or another bands. I live in a city called Jyväskylä, and Studio Watercastle is located also here. I can't remember how much one day cost, but I guess it is something like 200 euros. Arttu Sarvanne is the sound engineer and he is the guy behind the powerful sound. Many Finnish Rock and Metal bands like ALGHAZANTH and SILENTIUM has recorded their albums in Watercastle. They use Pro Tools HD3 and something more. Anyway, a good studio in my taste.

Speaking of „Ihmisihiham Eliitti“, your latest album. Since all track names are written in Finnish, I have no idea what it is about. Make short comments about each of the 9 tracks!

„Marraskuun Kahdeksas“ - this song is taken from our second demo. It is a good song in my opinion and we wanted to make a better version. „Marraskuun Kahdeksas“ means November 8th. Lyrics tell about day when everything turned to shit. „Henkisesti Sairas“ - this is a sick song with great lyrics by Noirgrim. Cold feeling from the beginning to the end. „Kolmen Minuutin Armopala“ - we have some Rock'n'Roll elements here. Lyrics are 100% hate. „Huoranpenikat Ja Huijarikuninkaat“ - mixed Black and Death Metal. Leinonen, my friend wrote the lyrics for this song. The song takes back to our early days. „Vitutuksen Viitoittama Vuosikymmen ...“ very fast song, a fist in your face! „Korpimetsän Perkele“ - another song taken from our second demo. Raw Black Metal elements with Black and Death Metal vocals. „Vasaroim Ja Taltoim“ - you can download this song from our website. It's a very good song, one of my favourites. This song will snatch the listener! „Musta Tie Tyhjyyteen“ - the first UHRILEHTO song where you can hear clean vocals. Great chorus. I think people will like this song very much. „Amputoitu Yhteiskunta“ / „Maailma Vailla Raajoja“ - the last song and also

very long. I heard this song only 2 weeks before the studio. There is a great end of this song.

By the way, what does UHRILEHTO mean?

It means Sacrificial Grove.

Do the musical tastes of the UHRILEHTO member differ from each other? I mean, let's say that the drummer might like Death Metal better than Black Metal, but still he has no problems with playing the music of UHRILEHTO...

No, we never had any problems about musical differences. Let's say, we all like Metal in general, even though I listen to a little bit different music nowadays, there are not any problems. Before to sign the deal with Schwarzdorn Production you have been signed to Cold Blood Industries from The Netherlands. What did you release on this label and why did you leave them?!

Cold Blood Industries released our debut album „Viha Ja Ikuinen Vitutus“ in 2001. Actually, all songs in this album are taken from our demo. They thought it was good enough to put on CD. Anyway, it was great feeling when we signed the deal. We signed only for one album. I can say nothing more. I don't even know how many CD's they have sold.

Do you have any other side projects or participations in record sessions of other bands? This is something normal for Scandinavia!

Noirgrim plays with Essiah in PESTIFEROUS, a fucking cold Black Metal. Cyclotron plays in PROFENE OMEN and I play with Noirgrim in FOR SELENA AND SIN. We

have played many other music projects thought the years, but these bands are still active. All these bands will release albums this year.

Are you a live band? Have you played at any big fests or have you had your own live appearances?

We have played some gigs in the past but we can't play right now. The reason is very simple, we live all around in Finland and we can't find time for rehearsals. But I have said this time when our new album has released, maybe some day you will see UHRILEHTO on stage, heh... Who knows, maybe this time it will be possible.

Your opinion about face painting - a trend or a way to be more artistic?!

We have used corpse paints since we started. Some bands want just a great image and I think many bands (not Black Metal) look like Marilyn Manson nowadays. I don't really care about this.

What do you think about experiments, both in musical and lyrical aspect? For example, I liked very much the non-standard elements in the last track of the album „Ihmisihiham Eliitti“. What is the story of this track? It is almost 14 min long!

Our drummer Cyclotron had this idea. When I heard this idea for the first time, I thought what a fuck! Anyway, it is a long track, like you said almost 14 minutes. We wanted dark and cold feeling in this song. I did my vocals in a special way, I didn't have even real lyrics in this song. I just went to the recording room and I found a real mood very soon.

All these Mohamed caricatures - isn't this much ado for nothing?

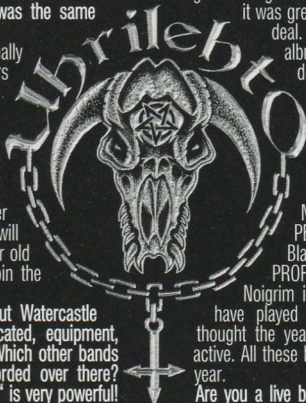
I hate every religion, so I think it tells something about my opinion.

When will your next album be recorded and who will release it?!

Schwarzdorn Production will release our next album. I can't say when we will record it, because we are quite busy right now with our other bands. But I take a guess we will enter to studio before 2007.

Last words...?

Thanx for the interview!!!





First off, how did it come up to signing up with Tyrant Syndicate and do you feel either proud or lucky for being joined under the banner of a label run by people involved in probably the most respected Black Metal band for the time being?

Well, Fenriz got our rehearsal tape and he contacted me and said that he digs our stuff, etc. After a while the contact got closer and closer and he said that I should send the tape and the 7" recordings to Nocturno Culto. In November 2004 Nocturno Culto said to me that he wants OLD under the banner of Tyrant Syndicate and on February 2005 we finally signed the contract with them. It's a big honour for us to be there. Maybe a thing we couldn't believe in the beginning. But you see - Tyrant is a real Underground label. If they would make money with Tyrant they would NOT sign with an unknown band like OLD!

It would also be interesting to learn some more about how it all started - when was OLD formed, have you previously played in other bands, etc.?

We started in spring of 2003 as a two man band, run by me and guitarist Doomhammer. We felt very fast that here is a lot of potential in the songs and so we added some friends of us to be a full band. Latest member is drummer Mersus. Doomhammer did not want to play the drums anymore, he is in first line guitarist and that was the reason for laying down the sticks. Well, all of us played in different Metal projects. Mersus the drummer still plays in some bands like DESTROYER 666, ZARATHUSTRA, etc...

Your band's name, by the way, sounds least defiantly unpretentious - is it meant to be sort of a clue that you guys are firmly going for sticking to the very roots of Metal in whatsoever forms? Both music-wise and fan-wise, I mean...

The name is to be found in the music, we play OLD SCHOOL METAL. And that's ALL about the name.... We think the name is perfect....If people prefer band names like RAVEN FART or GRAVE SNAIL they can do what they want. Our name is simple but it has a REAL meaning! Not like a lot of other bands where the name sounds nothing more than cool.

Which of the 80's Thrash and early 90's Black Metal currents do you feel closer? Correct me if I'm wrong, but I feel the presence of both tendencies in your music...

Well, it's totally right what you say. But I wouldn't say closer to none of these styles.... If people would finally wake up, they would UNDERSTAND that you can hear MOTORHEAD, SLAUGHTER, HELLHAMMER, etc. In bands like DARKTHRONE, etc. I mean the whole world tries to make boxes to fit bands inside of them to have an overview! To me NO WAY! For me exists only GOOD or BAD Metal! I hate people when they say „I listen only to 2nd Wave BM“, etc... STUPID! Because the TRUE roots are to be found in the 80s. Good example is MANILLA ROAD with the song „The Veils of Negative Existence“ - try to get it and then you can tell me how much MANILLA ROAD is in BURZUM. And of course, if you understand it, you will FEEL that MANILLA ROAD is DEEP too.

In your very first email to me you had told me that the „Nocturnal Ritual“ single is completely sold out: are you planning to either re-release it in the future or simply to join (part of) the material on it in your full-length debut to come?

No song of the 7" single will be on the full-length album. The only known song on it will be „Blood Skull“ from the rehearsal tape. At the moment there are no plans for a re-release of the 7" single.

As I touched on your upcoming album: how is the work on it going and when should we expect it to be out approximately? Perhaps you could even mention some track titles conceived as yet.

Just last weekend we started with the studio work, and it's almost finished, we have to go there one more time for the solo guitar and the vocals. The material is in the same neckbreaking old school style like the other releases. I would say the main inspirations are CELTIC FROST, DESTRUCTION, DARKTHRONE and MOTORHEAD. Some titles are: „Empire in Flames“, „Triumph of Hell“, „Down with the Nails“, „Blood Skull“, „Black Jewel Throne“....

The country you hail from is known for its enormous contribution to the 80's Thrash Scene, so I assume that a young German band (more or less) referred to



## Reaper: Our name is simple but it has a REAL meaning!

I won't lie to you, what ever stirred my interest in checking Germany's OLD out was their joining under the banner of Tyrant Syndicate! Thanks to Stian Fossum, I managed to reach the fronter Reaper via email and I was eventually sent a tape featuring the „Blood Skull“ rehearsal and the „Nocturnal Ritual“ single. What I heard from there was mind-sweeping Black / Thrash Metal! Well, it is not that bands referred to this blend are too few nowadays, but the OLD material proved to be among those rarely met recordings about which one feels like „YEAH! I FINALLY found what I was looking for!“ . Taken in September 2005, this interview appears rather OLD now, so I will freshen it a bit with informing you that the guys' debut full-length is coming in September. Till then, read and WAIT!

VANYA MARINOVA

the above mentioned genre would be either greeted as a potential keeper of the oldschool spirit or would be pessimistically taken for another proof that there is nothing new under the sun after all. Have you happened to view your origin as a two-edge sword sometimes?

The only reason for the birth of OLD is because old-school is almost „buried and forgotten“.... I mean we are tired to listen permanently to cheap & boring 2nd Wave BM rip off bands. They can do what they want, but they will NEVER get the same atmosphere like the originals... Of course, there are some good bands too. But we don't want to be with OLD a BURZUM copy band number 5373542527864. You know, we stay for old school Metal.... Of course, there is nothing new - but it's for the surviving of REAL Metal! I would like to see in 10 or 15 years YOUNG Metal Maniacs wearing HELLHAMMER shirts! They are NOT DEAD YET! Any other young extreme acts from Germany that you could recommend me as worth checking out?

Hell yeah! Here are some REAL bands from Germany: HELLISH CROSSFIRE, ZARATHUSTRA, WITCHBURNER, MORRIGAN, NOCTURNAL, LUROR, ANAEL, BETRAYED, BLIZZARD (RIP), MAYHEMIC TRUTH (RIP), PARIA, CHANT OF BLASPHEMY, ETERNITY.... All bands are really dedicated to Metal and you should try to check some of them out.... they have all different styles, but when you understand Metal you will get METAL!

Being sent the OLD tape by you kind of brought me back to those times when the internet was yet to become a reality and getting mail from a respected band sounded like quite a good reason to get drunk for, ha-ha. Do you think that the net more or less broke the spell by allowing to fans and musicians to communicate with no distance problems?

First of all I don't call myself a musician, I think I eat and shit like you! Ha-ha-ha... we are all Metal Hellheads. Fact is I lost a lot of trade trading friends since the shit started with this MP3 BULLSHIT! I hate MP3 - that's a SOULLESS pot. Some idiots think they have a longer penis because they have tons of MP3.... but they are nothing more than POSERS in my eyes. It was IMPORTANT for me to send you the OLD stuff on

a Tape with a Booklet, letter etc.... It is MORE personally and it has a SOUL. Or not? Correct me if I am wrong and you think it's the same thing for you to download stuff from the net!! I hate it when people say „hey check my band out on [www.downloadmyas-soff.com](http://www.downloadmyas-soff.com)“. FUCK OFF! That's absolutely only for whimps. Good thing with the net is to write faster mails and to keep contacts, etc.... And NO, I don't have problems when I get mails from fans or maniacs.... I listened to your „Blood Skull“ rehearsal earlier today and that reminds me: which of rehearsals and demos do you find more interesting and informative, when it comes to tracing back the development process of one band or another?

Uf, this question we could discuss many hours, but spontaneously I would say DARKTHRONE and HELLHAMMER / CELTIC FROST have an interesting past... And what do you think about best-of albums? I mean, do you tend to consider them as reliable guides for newbies or do you tend to regard them as unambiguous signs of creative exhaust?

I am not a big fan of best-of albums. I have 4 Best of Albums in my BIG Metal collection - IRON MAIDEN, VENOM, JUDAS PRIEST and MOTORHEAD... I mean I have ALL their regular releases on Vinyl and CD but it's good to have best-of albums of bands like them.... I don't see any reason why I should buy a Best of GRAVE, MORGOTH, CELTIC FROST, DARKTHRONE, MAYHEM, etc....

In case you end up being offered to do a split album with another outfit, which band(s) would you love to collaborate with and why?

That's easy - German HELLISH CROSSFIRE. Because they are OLD's blood brothers and they play REAL German 80's THRASH. I am more than lucky that they exist! Another band would be the German BLIZZARD (RIP). Because they did ALCOHOLIC KICK ASS ROCK-'N'-METAL! Like VENOM or WARFARE but more Brutal and Aggressive! I was so-o-o-o happy to hear this kind of Metal at the end of the 90s and the beginning of the new Millennium. To me BLIZZARD is a classic band.... of course I see myself in 15 years still drinking alcohol and worshipping them! ALL HAIL BLIZ-

ZARD! UH!

Have you guys played live as yet and, if yes, how would you describe the memory of OLD's very first stage appearance?

We played many times live and I think the memory of the first OLD gig I will never forget. We played in Gahma (Germany) 3 bands on that night and we were the second band. As I was watching the first band which played really good Black Metal on stage but NOBODY was banging or even hailing them I thought oh shit, this will be a bad start for OLD to play live. BUT the whole HALL turned into chaos when we played on stage. Maybe 10 people only knew about OLD there, but the whole hall was BANGING, we were very glad about HOW MANY people came to us after the show and thanked us for the show and that they got a feeling like they were on a concert of the early 90s. Our result is that we are an album band as well as a live band. And at least how good an OLD concert will be lies in the hands of the visitors.... if they stay around or they celebrate Metal with us.

Your own recipe for keeping the fan inside alive regardless of the fame glitter?

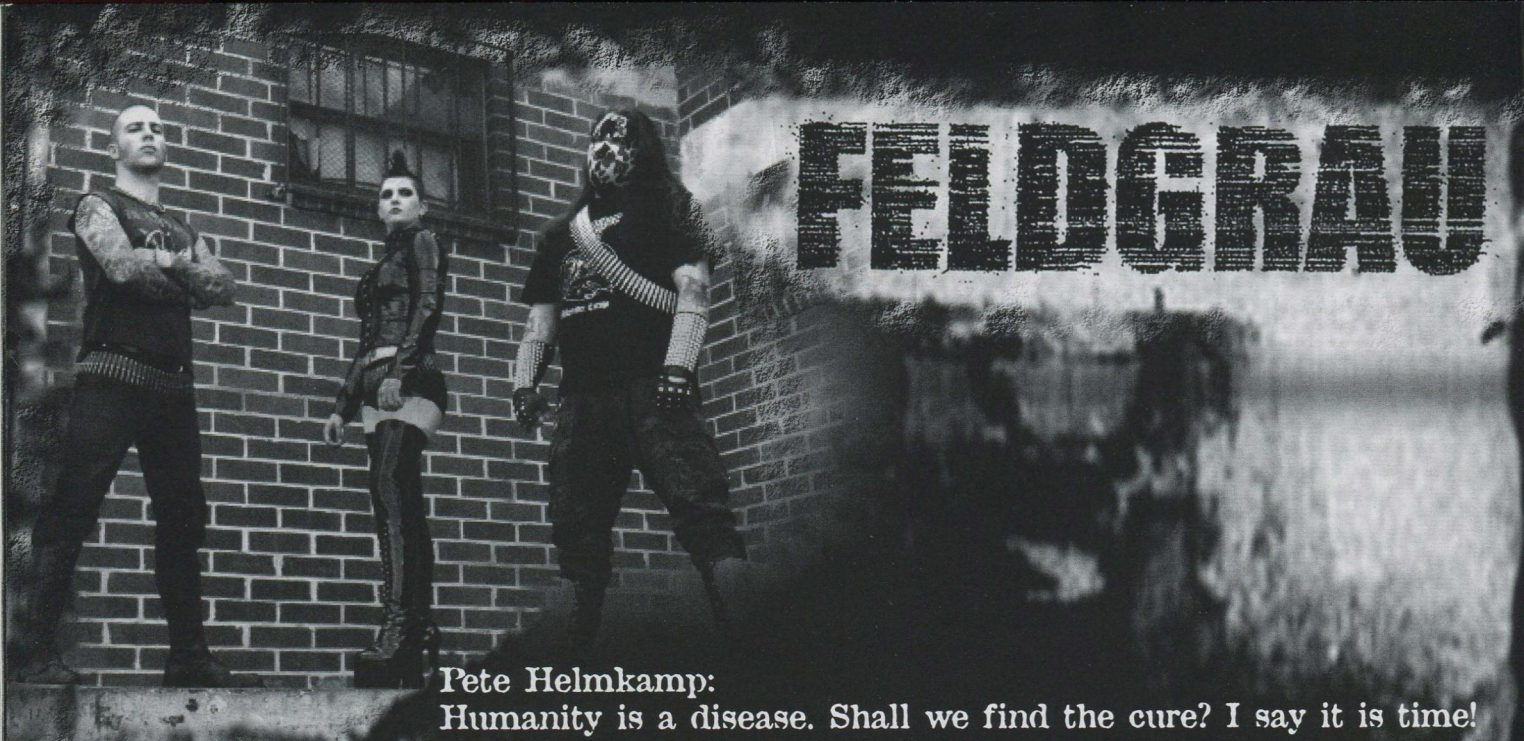
I will be ALWAYS a fan....never see myself as a musician. Metal is so-o-o-o-o BIG with tons of KILLER bands for different feelings. And my hunger for Metal will never stop! Nowadays we have still a lot of GREAT acts worldwide which I hail! Like APOKALYPTIC RAIDS, TOXIC HOLOCAUST, METALUCIFER, FARSCAPE, CHEMIKILLER, INFERNO, LUROR, SODOMIZER, TRENCH HELL, DESTROYER 666, COUNTESS, PENTACLE, etc.... latest fucking GREAT 80's band I found is from Hungary - POKOLGEP with the album „Pokoli Szinjatek“. The song „666“ kicks total ASS!!! Hat-hat-hatvanhat-hatszazhatvanhat! Ha-hah-ha-ha....

Ultimately, imagine that you are entrusted with the task to write an OLD bio tomorrow: which would be the sentence you would start with?

If it's in 30 years I would start with: Hellish long time ago when alcohol and cigarettes were cheap and my dick STRONGER than yet.... ha-ha-ha-hah.

Band contact: old\_hell@hotmail.com





**Pete Helmkamp:**

**Humanity is a disease. Shall we find the cure? I say it is time!**

Since this Brutalica issue features also a review of FELDGRAU's „Mechanized Misanthropy“ album, I wouldn't like to waste space in making clear who exactly stands behind this project from the US. Not to mention that, after all, there is only ONE person on the World Extreme Scene who carries the name of Pete Helmkamp. I am ending these introduction lines with stating that FELDGRAU was one of 2005's greatest surprises for me!!!

VANYA MARINOVA

What „Mechanized Misanthropy“ above all impressed me with was its defiantly frank nihilism! Would it be correct if I say that you view total denial as the most efficient fuel for the soul?

Denial, and perhaps excess as well. Fuel for the soul: Weltmacht oder Niedergang! All or nothing. Black or white. Love or hate. Life or death. The extreme is what makes life worth living. And what makes music worth listening to.

ORDER FROM CHAOS, ANGELCORPSE, TERROR ORGAN or IMMOLATION are among the bands that you guys are or used to be in, and these acts certainly enjoy numerous admirers from all the over the world... How was your youngest brainchild accepted anyway?

As a mixtures of extremes: folks either understood exactly what FELGRAU is creating, or they were so fucked off by the entire thing that they threw it away! Literally, people either loved it or hated it. And personally, that is exactly what extreme creations should evoke. Would one want a supporter that isn't behind them 100%? I certainly would not. FELDGRAU was never intended to be for a greater audience: we create our music for those few like minded extreme folks worldwide, nothing more.

In most cases side projects appear being people's opportunities to express ideas that ended up fitting none of the other band(s) the musicians happen to be involved with. Is „Mechanized Misanthropy“ a result of that, or are these 9 tracks intended for showing new aspects of FELDGRAU's members' creative powers?

Initially, FELDGRAU was solely my concept. It was the extension of what TERROR ORGAN was doing, but in a Metal perspective. I wanted the Industrial terroristic lodges in place of standard drums, but the remainder of the band would be bass, guitars, vocals - Metal. Not unlike early GODFLESH, or some MINISTRY, or things of that nature, but with a primitive Black Metal feel. The inhumanity of Industrial and Noise music was a perfect mix with harsh misanthropic Metal. FELDGRAU was born. Vhex and Destruct added their characteristics on the first album, but I can state that their input will be much more influential on our new material. Vhex has completely taken over the Industrial and Noise rhythms,

allowing me to concentrate completely on song writing and lyrics, and Destruct has crafted a signature style for his riffing and leads. I can say that FELDGRAU today is a band, as opposed to being a project at the time of the first CD. „Mechanized Misanthropy“ is only the beginning for FELDGRAU. We never intended FELDGRAU to limit ourselves to only one release. We have a new 7" EP entitled „Industrial Winter“ out soon on Agonia and we have nearly all of the material started for our second full length CD. Hopefully (with our busy schedules) we can record that by the end of the year. At the same time, FELDGRAU does represent an aspect or element of each one of us that is not reflected in our other bands. FELDGRAU offers us an outlet for our outside ideas so to speak.

By the way, I have recently found out that you have recorded a demo before that („Crush the Christian Contagion“, 2004). Is it still possible to find?

The demo „Crush the Christian Contagion“ was simply a 6 song promo used to obtain a recording deal. Those same 6 songs appear on the first CD in exactly the same manner as they appear on the CD-R promo. It was never released to the public.

Who was entrusted with the work on the „MM“ layout, and to what an extent do you pay attention to visuals?

Our label Agonia suggested to us a certain guy, and with our vision, graphics and ideas, and his expertise, the „MM“ layout was born. We worked with him again for the „Industrial Winter“ EP and will continue to work with him in the future. Like minded folks think alike: it's that simple. We would send him art or photos or ideas, and he would do something even more spectacular than we had conceived. That is a true partnership: we were impressed, he was impressed, and a brilliant outcome was achieved. FELDGRAU is intended to be a music / lyric / visual experience: all the elements support each other and make the end result greater than the sum of its parts. In FELDGRAU's combining of unpolished Black / Death riffs with cold Industrial drones I tend to see something rather symbolical... Would it be relevant to think that the material on your CD is supposed to mirror your attempts of portraying man's undying ignorance expressed in his lack of either ability or

care to foresee the rise of his own inventions against him?

It's quite strange: ten years ago I had such a different concept of humanity. For the most part, I held it in the highest contempt, yet I still felt the need for its redemption, in the fact that it indeed could redeem itself, if only through extreme measures. Now, I'm disgusted by the lot. I'm disgusted by everything, everywhere, all the time. Humanity is a disease. Shall we find the cure? I say it is time! I have created FELDGRAU to be one certain element of that cure: perhaps the fact that so many folks are afraid or in fear of what we are and will become is evidence of the decay that is everywhere..... Cold. Industrial. Drone. Existence?

Witnessing FELDGRAU live sounds like quite an unforgettable experience to me! Have you thought of doing some live performances or do you prefer to stay away from the crowd?

FELDGRAU has not played live yet. However, we do plan, after the release of our second full length CD, to play live and hope to tour Europe with that release. Certain elements of our music are very hard to recreate live, and we want to make sure that FELDGRAU will sound as close to the CD as possible. We have had several offers for shows on the East Coast of the US, but we have had to turn them down because at this point in time we are simply not ready. Our time will come!

Now one shady thoughts-free, absolutely rhetorical question: „War is the hygiene of the world“ was a line that impressed me deeply, and I also agree with it to a great extent! BUT: how would you feel if you find out one day that you have ended up in the lists with people whose disappearance is inexorably needed, in order the purity of the world to become a reality?

All of the strong in the world must compete with the others. And what is „strong“? I suppose I have my definition, it is what keeps me above those I must interact with on a daily basis. However, who am I to say that there are others that have a far greater and more powerful agenda than I? So be it. If they are worthy, and I can unite with them, then I shall. If not, I suppose I shall become history..... And isn't the purity of the world also very person specific? For example: I may be on the list here in the US already.

I personally predict that there will be a fascistic Right Wing Christian state here in the United States in the next 20 years. I said the same thing in an interview 10 years ago. I mean it. This place is crazy. Not crazy enough to strap bombs to young men and have them blow up buses and markets and border checkpoints, but crazy enough! Who will be their first enemy? Myself, and all of my kind..... I can only be who I am. I will not bow to some absurd concept, belief or government. If I end up in front of the firing squad, so be it. My works and life achievement will far outlive this body of mine anyway.....

You have not launched a FELDGRAU website, but right now I can name at least 5 bands (all of them side projects too!) with barely one full-length released, but they already have websites some of which with message boards even!!! Are you prone to agree with me that this is simply ridiculous?

We prefer the minimalism of our image and the fact that we want our music to speak for itself. As I touched on websites and such: your opinion about download sources like Soulseek or DC+++?

I purchase the music that I listen to. I don't download and don't intend to. Perhaps it's the fact that I'm older than most folks listening to Metal these days, but I want the actual product, and I want to support the band in as many ways as I can.

I have just remembered that years back I was sent a KREATOR tribute where ANGELCORPSE were joined with their „Pleasure To Kill“ interpretation. If you ever decide paying any band(s) a tribute with FELDGRAU, which would it / they be?

FELDGRAU decided early on that we would not cover any other bands songs.

Imagine that you are entrusted with the task of cleaning the US society tomorrow: who would you annihilate first?

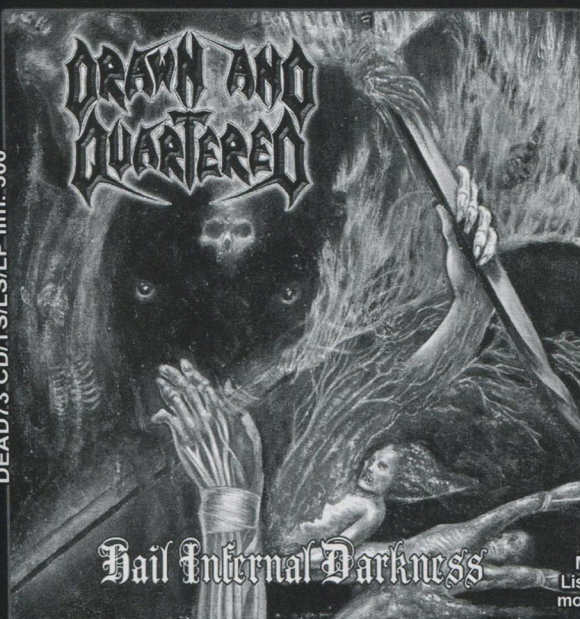
I would insist on mandatory intelligence / problem solving / physical fitness testing for everyone. End result: several standardized classes of competence and worth to society (work is a much more productive measure than annihilation, we could get a good 20-30 years out of a lot of them). No extermination, but there would be mass sterilizations according to merit and worth to society. And I don't believe in socialism, but we would at first have to approach things on a mass level, on a government sponsored and supported level. After a generation or two, there would be sufficient diversity in intelligence, creativity, and physicality that breeding could be supported again, and encouraged as long as the partners were going to upgrade the species. Insane? People do this with dogs, race horses, cattle, yet we do not enforce this imperative discipline within our own species. That is the true insanity!

Band contact: kommand666@yahoo.com



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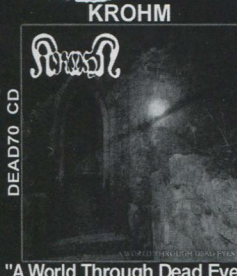
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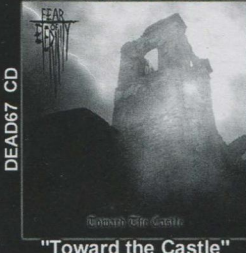
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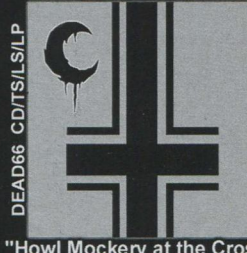
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## "The Cththonic Chronicles" contains key elements of all the previous albums

In today's gigantic oceans of bands there are only a few ones with their own innovative and unique style which is instantly recognizable for everyone. One of these bands undoubtedly is BAL-SAGOTH ... the epic barbarians from United Kingdom. For the last 10 years they released 6 unique albums, all of them considered as golden classics for today's Underground Scene. The interest for this interview was provoked by the release of their brand new album "The Cththonic Chronicles" and here the vocalist Byron will explain some thoughts and ideas behind the curtains of BAL-SAGOTH.

HARISTO GOSHEV

Hails to you and congratulations on a new extraordinary album! "The Cththonic Chronicles" is perhaps your darkest, most sinister and dynamic work ever! Was this something you aimed at?

BYRON: Hail! Yes indeed, one of the primary objectives which I set forth for this album was that it be much darker and more extreme than much of our more recent work. Although the lyrical concepts of all the albums maintain a uniform thematic concept (as they are all chapters within the same grand saga), the music for the more recent albums was often not quite as dark and aggressive as it could have been. Basically I made sure that the music for the new album was infused with a lot of darkness and a very sinister feel to go with the astral, bombastic and glorious elements. It was important for me that the sixth album contain elements of the early albums as well as the recent ones, and that it brought our long term supporters almost full circle with the BAL-SAGOTH experience. The essence of every BAL-SAGOTH album has always been the same, even if the sound and feel of the songs may have varied considerably. I like a really brutal, nasty, raw sounding production, but Jonny likes everything to be very clear. So, we achieved a combination of both preferences with the new album. As always, I had extensive story meetings with Jonny, during which I explained to him in great detail the thematic requirements of the album, what moods were required, what key events were to be scored, what goals we needed to achieve musically. I commissioned four synth pieces which were integral to the story, and one of the most important points was that I wanted the outro for the new album to reflect and merge with the intro from the first album, so that the hexalogy is one complete circle. And so, ultimately, "The Cththonic Chronicles" contains key elements of all the previous albums, so that fans of all the records so far will enjoy the ride.

What took you so long to finish this epic record?

BYRON: A lazy band? No, seriously, this album did take a long time to complete. One of the main reasons is that the guys I write the music with just can't keep to deadlines! We had several deadlines which were in place but for various reasons we were unable to meet them. Delays included problems with the software, upgrading equipment, and band arguments. Also, we took quite a long time to create this album because we were almost waiting for recording technology to catch up to our vision of what we wanted a Bal-Sagoth album to sound like! In the past when we recorded mainly on analogue media and equipment, we always found that we were almost running out of recording tracks, and that the medium wasn't

flexible enough to incorporate all our strange ideas, subtle nuances and multi-layered aural soundscapes. With the advent of digital technology, we found that we could finally work in an almost unlimited environment, for example achieving truly organic sounding choirs and highly genuine orchestral effects, all without worrying about running out of tracks! Certain parts of "The Power Cosmic" and "Atlantis Ascendant" were recorded digitally, but "The Cththonic Chronicles" is our first album to be created 100% in the digital realm. Of course one of the problems was getting to grips with the technology and manipulating it to its best extent, which is one of the reasons why the album took so long. And then of course the other reason why it took such a long time is because we don't do BAL-SAGOTH as a job, it's just a kind of hobby, so there were limits to how much time we could spend on things during any given day or week.

Your newest album is full of fantastic musical ideas... and has a great production. What are your plans for further work, will you remain the old Bal-Sagoth?

BYRON: The essence of BAL-SAGOTH will never change. The same creative fire which has burned within all six albums will forever endure unadulterated. Actually, we have not yet decided if we will continue and make any further albums, but there will always be BAL-SAGOTH experiences out there for the fans to enjoy, and we will never change our style or sound. We have essentially created our own unique and immediately recognizable sound, and this is something which we will maintain. We will never drastically change our sound or approach, and we will never allow experimentation to get out of control to the point where it renders the material unrecognizable as BAL-SAGOTH. Many ask us why we do not change our sound between albums, but why should we change? We have legions of fans out there who appreciate what we do, and although we always inject something new and exciting into each album's sound, we will never change our style or sound to any great degree. The essence which infused the very first album is the same as that which permeates all our subsequent work, and all our output reflects this. We have built our innovative sound, and we will not abandon our roots or change our approach.

Would you reveal some details about the lyrical concept this time? "The Cththonic Chronicles" was supposed to be the conclusion of the Second Trilogy of your grand saga...

BYRON: Well, the whole BAL-SAGOTH saga is potentially endless, but "The Cththonic Chronicles" is also in many ways the culmination of the entire hexalogy. Although in certain respects it is a direct continuation of "Atlantis Ascendant" which fans must be at least somewhat familiar with in order to fully understand some of the thematic references, the new album also hearkens back to many of the story arcs and concepts spanning all of the albums so far. The essence of the new album is that it is the actual embodiment of an ancient occult grimoire which contains terrifying lore and blasphemous information concerning mankind's true origin and the true nature of various hideous and malign entities which roam the universe, primarily the deadly and sinister demon-god Kththon. The various translations of the original manuscript have been sought by occultists and diabolists throughout history, and the album is a journey through the pages of this imaginary book and its sinister contents. Also on the album is the long awaited continuation of the "Obsidian Crown" story, which began in 1996 on the "Starfire Burning..." album! There is also a prequel to the song "The Dreamer In The Catacombs Of Ur" on the album, entitled "Unfettering The Hoary Sentinels Of Karnak", which explains the events leading to Dr. Ignatius Stone's fateful expedition to Ur. Fans of the extensive lyrical mythos will be interested by some of the revelatory information and insights into some of the favourite characters, too. The album essentially culminates with young Xerxes experiencing a terrifying epiphany which has a serious effect on his destiny and the path he subsequently follows. The album basically has relevance to the whole saga so far.

How important is the cover art for you? Does it have to indicate the album's title directly?

BYRON: The cover art is always very important to me, which is why I have always worked very closely with our artists during the creation of all the album covers. The cover artwork must in some way reflect the essence of the album, either in an abstract way, or, preferably, in a way which directly represents the characters and events from the stories contained within an album. The cover of the new album is intended to convey the actual ancient book known as "The Cththonic Chronicles" itself. There were many different translations of the original manuscript

throughout the ages, and the one which people will hold in their hands when they have the album is the most dangerous one of all. The idea is that the eye on the cover of the book opens and looks directly into you, to sense whether the potential reader is ready to uncover the dark secrets contained within the book. The book is only one of many ancient grimoires and occult tomes within the BAL-SAGOTH universe, but it is the one which hides the most terrifying and malefic lore of all. It's an idea very much inspired by Lovecraft's Necronomicon. I just figured it would be cool to have a booklet cover which was literally a book cover! That's an idea I'd had in mind for years, and finally when I came up with the idea for "The Cththonic Chronicles" I knew the time was right. I just hope people don't go into book stores or libraries looking for copies of the book, because of course it doesn't exist!

Do you have some videos in plans?

BYRON: We'll never do a standard boring video. Any BAL-SAGOTH video would have to be a very interesting and unusual piece to make it worth doing. I have several video ideas storyboarded, so perhaps one day these may be filmed if the funds become available. I have many contacts in the re-enactment and film industry who would be willing to provide fully costumed extras for such a video, and battles of truly epic proportions would thus be feasible to recreate. There was a plan to make a video some years ago, which was to be directed by an Emmy award winning director who specializes in historical pieces, but the label could not come up with the money. Recently I've been compiling a lot of early band footage plus some footage of our tours with DARK FUNERAL and EMPEROR, so that will probably be released to the fans at some point.

What is the current drummer situation in the band? Is Dan Mullins a permanent member of BAL-SAGOTH? Did he record the drum parts for the new CD, or was it Jonny, as was initially planned?

BYRON: Dan is basically a permanent session member who will play live on stage if we ever get round to doing any more gigs. He also played the drums on the album, and Jonny tells me that he supervised Dan very closely at all times during the recording process. If there was something which Jonny didn't like, he'd just go and change it with the music software afterwards, so basically we have a very flexible method of recording drums. I'm very pleased with Dan's blast-beats on the new album, which are about the fastest we've had so far.

Throughout your albums you have managed to create a complex universe which combines fantasy, sci-fi and mythological concepts. What are your main sources of inspiration for creating these dark visions? I know that literature is one...

BYRON: Yes indeed, literature, movies, comic books, even video games all play a major part in the inspirational process. My lyrical inspirations are sum-





moned from a wide variety of sources, including a lifelong fascination with ancient legendry, arcane mythology, history and the occult, as well of course as an enduring love for all aspects of fantasy, science-fiction and imaginative media. The fantasy universe which I have created and in which all of the lyrics take place is a vast place, complete with its own history, mythology, theology and cosmology. The true prime directive for me is to take readers on a wondrous journey into the realms of the imagination... a voyage into fantasy, sci-fi and occult mythology. There are many episodes in the epic saga of BAL-SAGOTH. The BAL-SAGOTH stories are very multi-layered, replete with allegory and metaphor in many cases, and all my influences over the years have been fused to create this grand and complex lyrical fantasy universe. I am a great admirer of authors such as Robert E. Howard, H.P. Lovecraft, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Tolkien, Frank Herbert, Stan Lee, Arthur C. Clarke etc, and additionally a great deal of mythological and occult texts influence me greatly. The BAL-SAGOTH lyrics can be read on many levels, and the stories contain many occult secrets waiting to be discovered by the more erudite reader. **As far as the lyrics are concerned, are they written prior to or after the music?**

BYRON: Always before. The songs always start out as stories and lyrics; the concept and thematic essence of a piece always comes first. I always have the lyrics and stories planned out or fully written well in advance of the commencement of the music writing process. I present a synopsis of the events and a detailed directive concerning the kind of musical composition which is needed to Jonny so he knows what is needed with the music. I invariably inform Jonny about the nature of the story, and what moods and atmospheres are ideally required, and what keyboard "special effects", if any, I think would be beneficial to the piece, and then he goes wavy and weaves his musical magic, for good or ill.

BAL-SAGOTH have a really matchless style, blending melodic Black Metal with epic Heavy Metal and powerful orchestrations... What do you think is the reason that you manage to keep such an unique approach over so many years - and still not being copied in a major way by other bands?

BYRON: I think one of the reasons is that we don't listen to any other bands in the genre, and we always look ourselves away during writing so that we are not unduly influenced by any outside sources. Our style is so strange, insular, unique and complex that I don't believe there are any bands out there who are psychologically or artistically capable of copying our approach. The essence of our song writing is a very unique and secret formula. One of the keys is synergy and the accurate realization of ideas from the conceptual phase all the way to the final product. There's a touch of magic about this band that no other group could ever possibly hope to emulate, I dare say.

**Even though I think that you are completely innovative, some might say that there are some bands that have influenced you in the past. What would those be?**

BYRON: Well my favourite bands will always be BATHORY, SLAYER, CELTIC FROST, MORBID ANGEL, DEICIDE, METALLICA, SABBAT, IRON MAIDEN, EMPEROR, et al. Jonny also likes a lot of old extreme Metal, but his favourite bands are stuff like TANGERINE DREAM, VANGELIS, and the POLICE. Chris is a big fan of METALLICA and SLAYER. So, in reality, all these classic bands can be seen as having influenced our art in some way or another.

**Some time ago there was a rumour about you. It claimed that you will make only six albums and then you will stop playing music under the name of BAL-SAGOTH. Is there any truth in this rumour?**

BYRON: Maybe. There is certainly enough material remaining to cover a further six albums and beyond! However, whether or not we ever get round to recording those albums remains to be seen. Generally, we don't really enjoy participating in the music industry, as there are too many dishonourable, pedantic and untrustworthy entities which infest it. However, Jonny and myself have often spoken about the possibility of a side-project which will be very symphonic in nature, so that's another possibility. And of course fans of the stories will be able to read additional adventures in both prose short-story and graphic novel format soon, and there is still interest from various software development companies to turn the concept into a computer game, so there should hopefully be plenty of opportunity for fans to

revisit the BAL-SAGOTH universe in the future. And of course, we will probably at some point get round to releasing more albums... if the fans demand it!

**Which of your songs do you prefer to play in a live performance?**

BYRON: I always think it's important to play a selection of songs from all the albums during a show. Sometimes this isn't easy because some of the other guys in the band don't like playing songs from the first album. Generally though, I like playing material from all the chapters.

**What are your plans until the end of the year?**

BYRON: Nothing is definite yet. We might play a few shows, but nothing is confirmed. Jonny does sound engineering work for various bands these days, so he will be doing some more of that. I will also continue working with our artist Martin Hanford on the BAL-SAGOTH graphic novels/comic strips, so there is still a lot to occupy our time.

**When was the last time when you felt you were struggling in your career and faced real adversity?**

BYRON: We face adversity every day. It is often very difficult to keep BAL-SAGOTH going. Outside entities often attack us, and there is always a great deal of insidious subterfuge and backstabbing which surrounds this band, and those who revel in sowing the seeds of dissent are always lurking. We have many cunning and deceitful enemies. There are often arguments within the band, too. And then there are grand fuck ups which are perpetrated against us, such as the Wacken live album fiasco. The Wacken sampler debacle was one of the worst displays of incompetence ever witnessed. We have the unaltered raw footage of the set, which shows that we played the songs in time, but when they appeared on the CD & DVD they were like totally out of synch. "The Empyrean Lexicon" suffers the worst. And also, the credit info on the inlays gets the originator info totally wrong. It has mauling down as writing the lyrics, which is just bullshit. And the CD spells the title of the song wrong. It's generally a fucking awful fuck up on someone's part, and to this day nobody has offered any kind of explanation or apology. Maybe they did it all deliberately, who knows? Legal action is still being considered about that. Anyway, we'll be releasing the true and correct versions of those

tracks on our website soon, so at least the fans can get the right versions.

**Is it hard to run a band as a democracy and still keep it a functioning unit?**

BYRON: Yes, which is why I sometimes have to take hard decisions about things for the greater good of the band. I have this grand vision about the band's destiny, which the other members often cannot see or share. In truth, my vision of what we should attempt to achieve and how we should go about it is often at odds which that of the other members. This is one of the reasons why we have had so many ex-members over the years. Democracy? Bah! I run this fucking band as a dictatorship! I am Emperor Palpatine!

**Before you became professional musicians, what kind of day jobs did you use to have?**

BYRON: We are not professional musicians. We still have day jobs! Yes, unfortunately we do not make a living from the band. We are a minority appeal "cult" band, and that unfortunately just doesn't bring in the money. (So I hope people out there remember that the next time they decide to illegally download one of our albums instead of buying it honourably!)

**What do you think of the British Metal Scene at the moment? Are there any new bands worth mentioning?**

BYRON: Unfortunately I'm going to have to give a very boring answer here and say that I don't really keep up with what's happening in the British scene. But I will say that people should check out a band from our city of Sheffield who call themselves "Extreme Maggot Infestation".

**Thank you for your time! In conclusion would you like to send a message to your Bulgarian fans?**

BYRON: Thanks to all the fans of BAL-SAGOTH who are reading this. We greatly appreciate the support which you've given us over the years. Keep checking our website for news and features (the site will soon be revamped and improved) about the band at

[www.bal-sagoth.com](http://www.bal-sagoth.com) and [www.bal-sagoth.co.uk](http://www.bal-sagoth.co.uk).

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## DIMMU BORGIR meets HATE ETERNAL

Being started 10 years ago as a typical brutal Death Metal formation, VILE undergo some changes during the last two years, which of course have reflected to their music. The last album „The New Age of Chaos“ aroused different opinions. For some people it wasn't as brutal and intense as the previous records of the band were, for others (like me for example) it was a fresh air on the US Death Metal Scene, mainly because it has a quite different sound and some experimental elements. To see what direction VILE will take in the near future, I got in touch with the band leader Colin Davis, and here you can see his thoughts.

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

Hello, Colin! Where do I find you at the moment? We're getting ready to start the Gutting Europe 4 tour.

Did you already make your plans for 2006? Tours, festival appearances or maybe a new record?

We have this European tour starting and then we have plans to tour the US with DEEDS OF FLESH in the summer. I'm looking for a winter 06/07 tour now.

Did you have some line-up changes in the last 3 years?

Well yes, there have been some changes. In addition to me, now we have Mike and J.J. Hrubovcak from DIVINE RAPTURE on vocals and lead guitars. Erlend Caspersen of BLOOD RED THRONE on bass and Reno Killerich of OLD MAN'S CHILD / DIMMU BORGIR on drums. We'll see how it goes, I'm looking forward to touring with this line up.

„The New Age of Chaos“ ... this is the title of your latest album. And I would like to ask where you see chaos: in your personal lives or in the current world situation ... neverending war conflicts, religious conflicts?

The Chaos refers to the world's political climate that we are entering now. This album pertains to a conflict between the West and extreme Islam. Man, I'm still looking for someone who has voted for G.W. Bush. I have so many friends in USA, most of them young people, but none of them has voted for Bush. It seems that most of the young people in USA are against Bush and his political direction?

Well, most young people don't vote here so I guess it doesn't matter anyway. Actually I'm not even sure how much it matters anymore. All the candidates are from the same social order.

Where do you see the differences between VILE and the other well-known US Death Metal bands? Let's say this interview could be read by someone who has never heard about VILE. How can you describe your music and ideas?

For the older albums I'd compare them to MORBID ANGEL, if I had to pick a band. For the new material I guess I would say DIMMU BORGIR meets HATE ETERNAL. Maybe that description will help people. For this new material, I tried to make it really catchy and memorable but do it in a brutal and uncompromising way.

I think your main goal with „The New Age of Chaos“ has been to make it as technical and vigorous as possible and to escape from the monotonous ideas which even bands like CANNIBAL CORPSE have. Can we say in some degree that „The New Age of Chaos“ is an experiment for you?

It's definitely an attempt to do something different, yes. I wanted to infuse more melody into these songs. And even though I wrote the material alone, this album got a huge boost from the fact that each of the musicians has a distinct style that you can always hear.

You have 3 albums released, right? Now, several years after the releasing of the records, do you see the strong and weak points in them?

They were all the best we could do at the time. I'm still satisfied with them. They each have a different feel and sound to me, and that's a good thing I think. One of the goals for me is to keep changing with each release.

Where did you record the 3 albums and what kind of equipment did you use? Digital or analog recording, what do you prefer?

For this kind of recording, digital has so many advantages so that's the way we record. I do love the sound of high-end analog but it's not really appropriate for this music. The first two albums were recorded at Trident Studios. It's a studio owned by Juan Urtega, the band's former singer. This latest album was recorded at my own studio, Imperial Mastering. We are both engineers by trade.

I read about some VILE and DEEDS OF FLESH conflicts related to the Jim Tkacz and Mike Hamilton firing. You are going on tour together in the end of the month so I presume that you stand better with DEEDS OF FLESH now?

Those must have been old. It's been cool between us for a long time now. Jim left the band in 1998 anyway.

The bass guitar in „The New Age of Chaos“ sounds quite different, as compared to the previous album - it is more audible and clearer. Such a bass sound you can hear more often from a Thrash Metal band, I guess this is a new influence for you, right?

It makes sense because Jack Gibson of EXODUS recorded the bass on this new album. He has a very hearable and distinct style and sound. Everyone is really happy with the way the bass sounds on this album. And Jack's style really helped the band sound tight.

If we accept that bands like CANNIBAL CORPSE, DEICIDE and MORBID ANGEL are professional ones ... they live from the music, but for smaller bands like VILE I guess you should have a day job, right? How do you succeed to keep your job since you sometimes are on tour for 3-4 weeks? It is hard to imagine that any employer in the world gives such long holidays, ha, ha....

Yeah a couple of us are recording engineers, now Mike, our new singer is a graphic designer and a Death Metal artist, his brother has a regular job but has some flexibility. Reno and Erlend are also keeping their lives open for touring and recording. It takes a special commitment to make this music work, you really have to love it.

Wouldn't it be better if you have a stable line up?

I suppose that all these changes are preconditions for a lot of problems...

Of course it would be nice. But there are so many reasons why it's hard to do. I'm doing my best to make that happen though.

Can you say that playing in VILE cleanses you from all the negative energy that you have got from the world you live in?

I'm sure it does. I have tried to live without it and I cannot. So, I guess there is no other way. How much time will the recording process of your next album take and when should fans expect it approximately? Do you also have plans for a DVD release?

Well, we are preparing to start the first tour in support of our new album, „The New Age of Chaos“. We will be doing several tours to support this album. Then we can start writing new material and preparing for a new album. It takes so much to make a VILE album, so don't expect a new one for about two years. We have released our past albums every three years but I want to shorten that, it is a little too long. Final words...

I thank you for the support. We really appreciate it!

Check out our website at [www.vilestench.com](http://www.vilestench.com) and [www.myspace.com/vile](http://www.myspace.com/vile)



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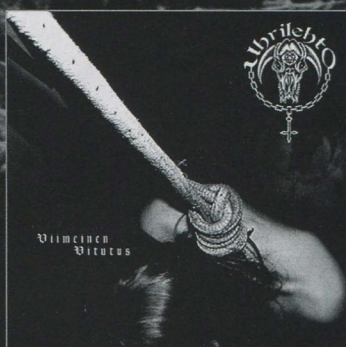
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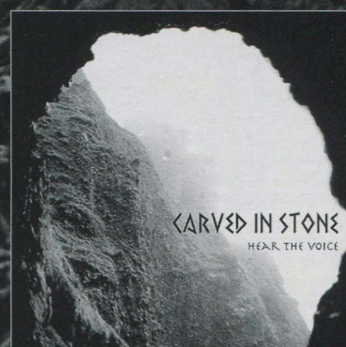
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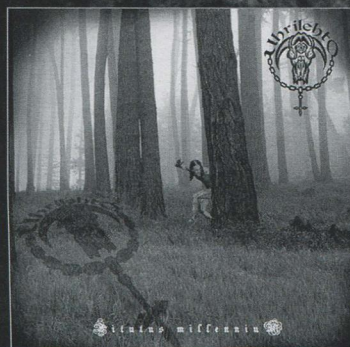
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## Agan: With ORENDA you will not find the sonic whore you're looking for!

Last summer brought me another great surprise on the musical front, and what keeps making it more special than the others that I got back then is that this news piece came not from anywhere else but from my own country!!! A project of BLEEDING BLACK's Agan (guitar), Vampiriac (bass) and Pericles (drums). ORENDA proved to be a vertiginously gigantic step further into the obscure world that these guys once opened gates to, with releasing 2 albums under the name of their prior band. With their "Back in the Grave" debut, in my ears at least, these 3 guys (each of them with a solid contribution to Bulgaria's extreme Metal activity in the 80s) are by no means of proving how far one can get in all that kvlt-trve-nekro slapstick that corpse painted brats have been proudly raising the flag of in the last 5 years!

VANYA MARINOVA

Man, I have to tell you that even though early 90's Black Metal wave revivers have been growing like mushrooms lately and the whole story is not as interesting as it used to be, you STILL succeeded in causing me goose bumps with these 6 tracks! Honest! Then again, have you assumed that ORENDA might be easily underrated for the reason I pointed out already, namely that bands resorting to the 1990's sound are too many at present? At first, thanks for your kind words ... I'm glad that you liked the album. As for this whether it will be appreciated or not, we don't care about that. If appealing to somebody was our goal then the release wouldn't have sounded the way it does. There were even moments when we were wondering whether to release the material at all or to keep it as a musical background for our drunken escapades. Because "Back in the Grave" is fully accorded to our tastes, so we are totally devoid of pretences and ambitions to prove the world that it is a good album and so on. I got the opinions from the individuals I wanted to, and everyone else is free to make his own conclusions. I am not sure which bands in particular you call early 90's BM revivers, but still I would say that there are good musicians as well as such that bust their balls in doing something they have no the blood for, and hide it all behind such crap as concepts and fan-ship. Nothing bad though ... as long as the blood keeps being spilled... I don't know if you got the answer you expected; at any case, "Back in the Grave" mirrors the BM sound we like, not your excruciating German neo-Heavy Metal bands or such that are called Black Metal just because they have happened to have a bit more riffs than the Goth sound allows, HAHAAHAHA!... And how did it come up to the forming of ORENDA actually? I think it would be also useful to forward

what the very name of your project means exactly... for those who don't know or cannot comprehend the Bulgarian explanation at the BLEEDING BLACK website...

In fact, ORENDA is almost a BLEEDING BLACK coeval previously under another name, the ORENDA one "came" kind of unnoticeably in the last 2-3 years. We hadn't thought of releasing albums or anything like that but, little by little, this story started living its own life and we just had to write the finale. The name of ORENDA has several meanings: 1) a mysterious force of nature that could kill you via one single touch, 2) a secret force dwelling in the head of man, the body of an animal as well as in inanimate objects, 3) ancient Bulgarians believed that the orenda could be transferred from one person to another. This explains the ritual with the skull chalice ... with drinking from it the winner in the battle would take the power of his dead enemy. We also have ORENDISM ("sacral murder") ... a supernatural force that transits from dead kings' bodies to their heirs' ones.

In some of your tracks I discerned screaming parts that contribute enormously to the creepier aura of your debut - whose is the throat they come from???

That was the exact atmosphere I was trying to get, and what I was additionally aiming at was nothing ornate or lustrous so some decisions were made literally within seconds. The same goes for the screams you refer to. Right now I can't remember which track(s) you are talking about exactly, such screams can be heard in two of the songs in the album, but what I can assure you of is that the screamers are still safe and sound, ha-ha-ha!! I'm watching the "Back in the Grave" front cover right now and I think it strongly resembles that of "Too Black" ... What can you tell me about it?

Yeah, to the good or to the bad, both covers are done by the same artist. The guy attempted to create something original, but he kind of failed and came up with the easiest possible decision. I like the outcome though ... after all, we are very close friends so I simply forgave and forgot, ha-ha... The problem is elsewhere ... the guy is planning to use the same layout for the next ORENDA album too, HAHAAHA! I gave total freedom to all: artists, musicians, lyric writers... let them do what they like to, what else... I can't argue with freaks all the time, ha-ha-ha.

I am yet to read the ORENDA lyrics, so can you say what we should expect there? Judging from the very track titles, the verses you are coming up with seem to be promising a bunch of thorns though... It's always Vampiriac who writes the lyrics, and the ones that he wrote for "Back in the Grave" not only fit the album perfectly, but are also among its most radiant merits. I guess these verses, at least, should get the appreciation they deserve. There is a lot of blackness in them and they mirror the album's mood perfectly, not just puerile words. The last track, "Obscurantism" is in French. I guess it is too early to ask, but is it planned "Back in the Grave" to be followed by other releases in the future or is ORENDA meant to remain a one-album project? What thoughts are hovering in your head right now?

It's not early, I recorded some stuff between 2003 and 2004 and "Back in the Grave" was almost finished early in 2005, so there is enough material for more albums. We are starting to rehearse soon without spurring ourselves up that much though, and sometime in 2007, even if not officially, we will come up with a new release... since we started this album game we'll play it till the end now... In general, nothing is a 100 % certain, and that's why

ORENDA is suspended in Time without developing that dynamically, so anyone who has heard the first album can be sure he has heard the second one already as well.

What is the feedback on ORENDA so far, by the way? I assume you have sent some mp3 files here and there and track 2 ("The Shrine") is available for downloading at Packo's BLEEDING BLACK website in addition...

If you're talking about labels, there is no feedback because what we do is gathering and starting to discuss what we are going to do next...whether to send the material or not, whether to release or not and, while wondering about this all we get drunk without doing anything eventually...for almost 1 year. Otherwise, the responses are very good so far, even a bit surprisingly good but, on the other hand, I am quite satisfied. Apparently some people got tired of grandiose Black Metal creations and started gradually to realize that real Black Metal is way simpler... Oh, others ask why solos are missing or go like "hey, this or that band doesn't play like that" or associate us with various bands in addition... Quite normal things on the whole and with ORENDA you will not find the sonic whore you're looking for, HAHAAHA!

As I mentioned the BLEEDING BLACK site: what's the current situation in the band? Are you going to delight us with new material till the end of the year? I wish I could say that we are coming up with a new material, but things are different unfortunately. We have the advanced record of the whole album almost but still there is a lot more work waiting to be done, and it is yet to find out who will do the vocal part, as Pagane is not in Bulgaria and her returns never last long enough. It would be great if she records the vocals anyway, because they will fit the new material best due to the more "dramatic" ambiances we wove this time and, after all, it is her who sings in the previous BLEEDING BLACK albums as well. Nevertheless, we might entrust Vampiriac with the task - that would be as easy as a piece of cake for him...

How do you see 2006 Metal-wise?

We'll wait and see... Let's hope this year will have its good releases, even though I seriously doubt that I will witness any... Quite few are the bands nowadays that could come up with material either groundbreaking or just REAL!

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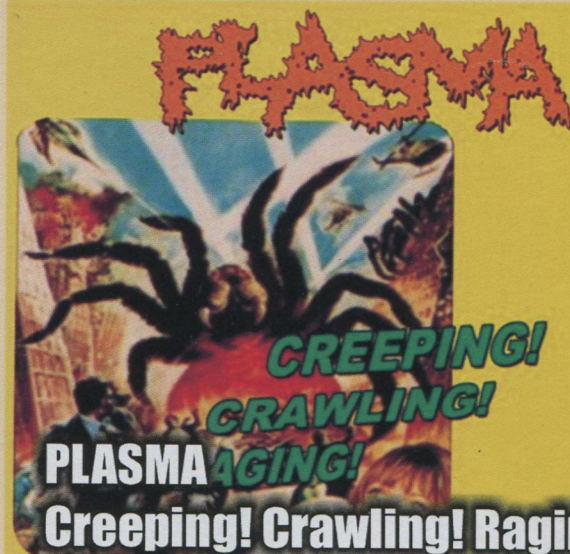
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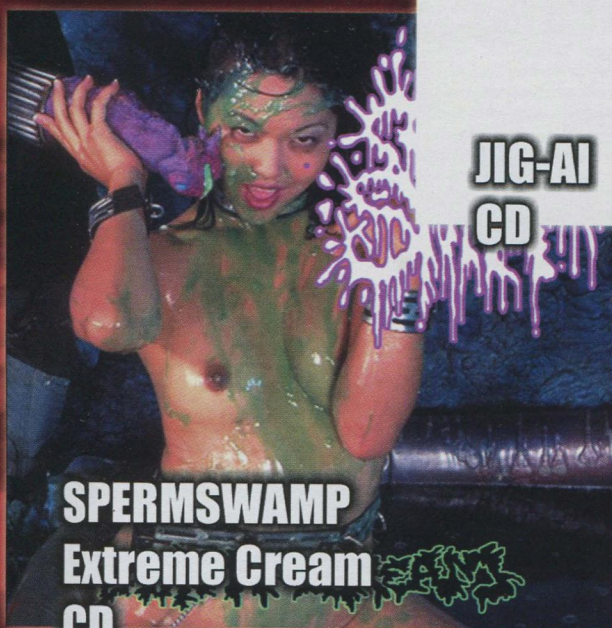


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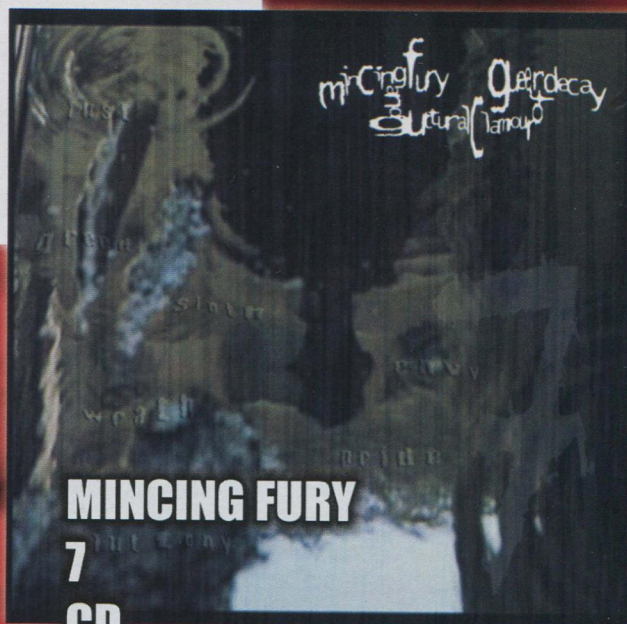


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With the band's latest record, "Shovel Headed Kill Machine", Thrash Metal titans EXODUS seem to be leading the tide and revival of Thrash Metal. "Tempo of the Damned" [2004], proved to be the resurrection of a band primarily known for thrashing and having fun. Although the band has not lost their fundamental principles, aggression and fury have been added to the band's music arsenal. With a nearly entirely new lineup, including Paul Bostaph (SLAYER, TESTAMENT) and primary song writer Gary Holt, EXODUS is leading the new tide of Thrash Metal, comprised of both their old friends in DEATH ANGEL and MEGADETH, and of course with the new crop of Thrash bands worldwide. With 2005 nearing a close, the year could not have ended with the release of the most crushing album, "Shovel Headed Kill Machine".

#### ALEXI FRONT

Tell me a bit about how the process for the new album, "Shovel Headed Kill Machine" differed from the previous album, "Tempo of the Damned".

**Gary Holt:** Well with "Tempo of the Damned" Andy Snares was invaluable as far as having someone there to push me. But I am in the control room the whole time and Andy and I see eye to eye on everything as well. I have been doing this long enough also so that it is at a point where I know what I want. Production isn't really rocket science, it's just knowing what you want people to do and getting the performances and handing it off to Andy to work his magic on it. I basically produced or co-produced every EXODUS album whether I get credit for it or not.

**How do you think the product differed this time around from "Tempo of the Damned"? What sets "Shovel Headed Kill Machine" apart from "Tempo of the Damned"? Is there any more of a connection you have to this one because you produced it one hundred percent?**

No, not really. I love working with Andy, but I just know what I want and it's cheaper to have me do it [laughter]. But I love working with Andy and there have been times when I missed having him in there to help me out there, especially with his engineering expertise. I wouldn't say this album is more personal; it is just angrier and more aggressive. I had to overcome a few more obstacles, which always inspires me. I work better when I have my back against the wall.

**In comparison to the past EXODUS albums, would you**

**consider this one to be the most aggressive one and the best one production wise?**

I'd say it is the most aggressive I would say for sure. It is pretty raw also, more so than "Tempo of the Damned". I kind of wanted that really because "Tempo of the Damned" is super polished and sounds amazing. The both share a lot of similarities. I'd rank this one second in the catalog just because I will never rank anything above "Bonded by Blood".

**When some people say that an album loses feel because the production is so good and the raw feeling disappears, what do you think of that?**

Not necessarily. I like my shit to sound great. The better it sounds, the better it sounds loud. It should always be as tight as possible. This album is a bit rawer because of the way we recorded it. We had less time to record this album than we did for "Tempo of the Damned". There were times when we were going for it because we had to get it done. We really pushed the envelope with this one and just flew through it. We made shit happen quick. A lot of people say drums may sound too produced, well I want them to sound like canons. I want them to sound great, the last thing I would want to do is make an album that sounds like it made it on 1987 technology. I never want to do that. I want it to sound great. I want it to sound better than everybody else's shit.

**Tell me a bit about the cover art. You talk about the drums sounding like canons, you have a piece of artillery right on the front.**

That is a question I really should know the answer to. The artwork was done by a guy named Anthony and we sent him a rough idea and what he came back with on the first draft was exactly what we wanted! It envisioned the entire thing! It is the best album cover we have had and it has a great vibe to it.

**It's got a bit of a Death Metal vibe to it also.**

Yeah, and I like that! I like artillery, I like skulls, I have the best of all three worlds.

**Tell me a bit about how each of the new guys got into the group, starting with Paul Bostaph.**

Oh totally! When Tom [Hunting, drums] had his mental break down, the first name that came to mind was Paul. The thing was that I didn't know if he had any other projects going on at the time. I got in touch with him and as luck would have it he didn't. He wanted to come jam, so he came up and we jammed. Things clicked right away. Tom, leading up to his initial break-down, was already dealing with his issues, but was keeping it to himself. This was before he believed he was dying. He was battling me on tempos a bit. He didn't want it to be as fast as I did.

**He couldn't have done "Deathamphetamine" in that kind of condition.**

Well, I jammed that on Tom too, but when he started getting worse and before it got bad, "Shovel Headed Kill Machine" was half the speed it was when I ended up playing it with Paul. So when Paul asked if he could put some double bass in the songs and I said, not at all [laughter]! You play it that fast, sure I dream double bass. I let him play what he wanted.

**Tell me a bit about how Lee Altus joined the band.**

Well when Rick [Hunolt, guitars] quit the band, Lee was the only person I had in mind. He is one of my oldest friends and one of the best guitar players I have ever known. So I never considered anyone else, I just called up Lee and he told me he had been waiting twenty years to join the band anyways. He is here and it is perfect.

**How have people accepted the new album?**

They love it! The reviews have been off the hook. People are saying it is better than "Tempo of the Damned". Of course you have the few nay-Sayers, but they are usually people who aren't fans anyways. Every other review I have read, the people have been blown away. With "Tempo of the Damned", it is a great album, but it was held by low expectations. People expected EXODUS to get back together and make a mediocre album and just be another band well passed their prime making an album of re-hashed eighties' Thrash and then going out and tour, playing only two songs from it and living off their past successes. I am not about that. I am about making killer new albums and not living off past albums. This album here, with all the problems, people didn't expect it to be this good, especially with all the problems. You should never doubt me because I will shut you up. Because I am that kind of guy, I work better when people question your abilities.

**I think that especially the label has put you as the face of EXODUS and how do you feel when someone criticizes something so personal to you?**

I don't care. I don't expect people to love me. People don't have to love my band to be my friend, that's not the type of person I am. I don't give a fuck, love me or hate me. There was a time when we were Metal darlings, but now with the internet, people love me and people hate me. I really can't care whether someone likes me or not. I am doing what I want to do, and every last one of them would cut off their testicles to do what I do. These little kids sitting behind their computers talking shit, it is like dude, I have forgotten sex with more women than these kids will ever have. I have had more fun and visited more countries than they will ever have the luxury to and I get paid to do it. So I tell them, fuck you, I don't care if you like me. So long as there are people who do like what I do and support what I do I will keep doing it because I am having fun. If you don't like it, that's fine. I don't expect a fan of STRATOVARIUS to like EXODUS, and I don't expect an EXODUS fan to like STRATOVARIUS. When we were starting out, people supported all the forms of heavy music and now it is so alienated. I love Black Metal and I love Death Metal, but now kids are close-minded.

**I think that the close mindedness comes with categorization and putting little labels on different bands. You couldn't put two bands in a category and say, "I only like AMON AMARTH" for example.**

I love AMON AMARTH!

**I love AMON AMARTH also, but throw IRON MAIDEN into their own category and people screw themselves over out of close mindedness.**

Well if you go over to Europe you can see the same

people loosing their minds over SAXON as they do with DIMMU BORGIR, CRADLE OF FILTH, and THE HAUNTED. All fantastic bands. Here in the States everyone says they like only a few bands and only those bands. It is getting better.

**The internet is creating a dichotomy. People are close minded because they are exposed to so much of one thing, say Power Metal. At the same time, there are opportunities to expand into so much stuff.**

There is good and bad to it. The internet also allows cowards to talk all the shit they want. People who would never say these things to my face, because they will get hurt. I am not by nature a violent man... yes I am [laughter]. I am cool. A good example of internet. I have read reviews, say on Blabbermouth they are talking, some dude says the album is great and another guy says he met me and that I was an asshole. I am completely nice to everyone and I am the most open person to my fans. I am more active on my own message board than most people in any band. But, you get some guy who was wasted out of his brain, obnoxious, bad breath, drunk, and drooling, and I don't want to talk to him. All he remembers is that I didn't want to talk to him. But he doesn't remember he was fuckin' idiot. Whatever, it doesn't matter that much to me. I want to have fun, and I wouldn't be doing this if I weren't having fun, that is why I quit in 1993.

**What exactly happened between 1993 and "Tempo of the Damned"?**

Well in 1993 I quit because I wasn't having fun. It had become too much of a business and a bad one at that. I had a brand new daughter at home and it was a no brainer for me. I chose to walk away. In 1997 we did the reunion with Paul [Baloff, vocals] and that was great and we planned on making a new album, but my marriage was on the rocks, so I decided to step away from it for awhile. We never actually broke up. Some people say we reunited and then were done, no that isn't the case. We were just separated and in 1997 I was able to come back and play. Then with drugs, Paul's death, more drugs, and things were a mess, it wasn't the right time. It wasn't till "Tempo of the Damned", and that was only because I was clean. I wouldn't have been able to do that album if I was still on dope.

**There has been a huge change of lifestyle on the road from the early days till today?**

Well I still like to drink, but drinking wasn't my demon. I drink, I get drunk I get up and a fall down, no problem. But methamphetamine was our demon and we always did the shit. But there was a time when we did the drugs and the drugs didn't do us. Unfortunately that still is the case for Rick. I tried for two and half years, and I will be clean for three years in December, and I tried the whole time to get Rick to follow me. We could just never do it. You have to do it for yourself. Some people can do it and others have trouble. Some people are weekend warriors, they will work all week and then go out and do a few fat bumps of speed and they go out and party on Saturday night. Some people smoke up an eight ball. Whatever, it is a mess and it's awful, sometimes you need to hit rock bottom before you can get out.

**What drove you to get clean?**

Well, it had nothing to do with the band. I just didn't want to follow Paul. The other four friends I know have all died from the shit. A lot of people don't know one person who has died from the shit. I know five, all where my best friends. It is a life choice, a choice to live. I got my life back. When I was getting high, I could sit in a room with some of the finest gear in the world and the most beautiful guitars and I'd play them for five minutes and then put them down to do more dope. Now I don't ever want to put them down.

**What was it like to tour with Dave Mustaine and MEGADETH last fall?**

It was great! Dave has been a friend of mine since the early 1980s and it was great to reconnect with him. We had a great time. I owe a debt to Dave for having the balls to take us out on tour because not a lot of people do.

**Here is an open ended question. Why do you think Thrash Metal started in San Francisco?**

I think it started in San Francisco because the bay area was far and away the first location in the United States to be hip to all the great Metal coming from Europe. New York, Chicago, LA, all those places had no idea who ANGEL WITCH, DIAMOND HEAD, TYGERS OF PAN TANG, VENOM, and SWEET SAVAGE were. We were the first to get into it. We were doing IRON MAIDEN covers when everyone thought they were originals playing backyard parties. People in the bay area knew who IRON MAIDEN was. We took that influence along with



the classic Metal like BLACK SABBATH and MOTOR-HEAD. We were also into the early 1980's British Hard Core Punk. Priest and all that stuff also. The bay area, especially largely due to Rampage Radio run by Ron Quintana, was listening to that stuff before anyone else in the states.

**So it was that and the network of tape trading. How involved were you in that?**

I would send people an occasional tape of our shows. I have known people have shown me their lists of over 300 live shows on tape. They were all categorized by time, length, where they were from, quality of the audio, all that. I was never much into it.

**How is the internet like or not like?**

The thing about the tape trading was that it didn't hurt album sales. You are trading live bootlegs and stuff like that. It is a double edge sword also because the internet is great for unknown bands to be discovered. People are going to bootleg and people are going download, there is nothing that can be done about it. It is here to stay. Makes me wish that sometimes all we had were 8-tracks and LPs, but albums get leaked. "Shovel Headed Kill Machine" leaked and "Tempo of the Damned" leaked, there is nothing you can do about. It hurts you if your album sucks, fortunately, none of ours have. It can work for you by building a buzz around how good the album is. Someone downloads an advance copy and says it sucks, it is going to hurt you in the first week of sales.

**How are things with Nuclear Blast?**

Great! We put them through hell in the last year with all the member changes. By the time I see them in Europe the guys in Germany will have gray hair. But we love them and they have done nothing but great things for us.

**Compare Rob Dukes' vocals and the vocals on past records?**

I don't think there is any comparison really between him and Zetro (Steve Souza), he is much better. Zetro did a good job on "Tempo of the Damned", but there are a lot of things that he does on the record that annoy me, like the Bon Scott love shout thing. But that is what Andy and I went out of our way to minimize on the last album, and that is why he went over so

well. He did a good job, incorporated some other elements into it, but he left a lot of that out. I think that Rob has a lot more in common with Paul than Zetro at times.

**In some ways, the Bon Scott thing is something you leave to be someone else's signature. You have to find yourself as a vocalist really.**

Can't eliminate what someone else did because you have to pay homage to them, but you can't milk it. You put your own spin on it.

**Are you planning to re-record anything?**

Before Tom and Rick left the band, we were planning on re-recording "Bonded by Blood" with different guest singers. We had a lot of really great singers lined up to do it, but I would never do it without Tom and Rick. That would be wrong of me to do it by myself.

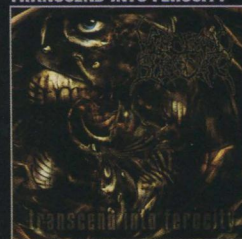
**How do you do the setlists for this tour? How do you manage to balance all the old stuff and the new material?**

It is hard [laughter]! We are doing almost everything from the new album that is what I am here for, to make new albums, not rehash the old stuff. I am not playing "Toxic Waltz" tonight because I am sick to death of that song. I would happy to never play that song again even though tons of fans like it. I have been thanked actually for not playing it because it is overplayed. It is a great little Thrash anthem, but it is not what the band is about anymore. We are about thrashing, fury, and aggression.

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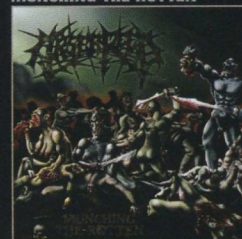
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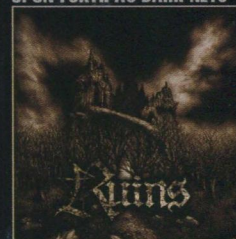
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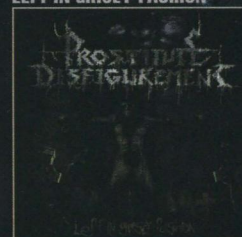
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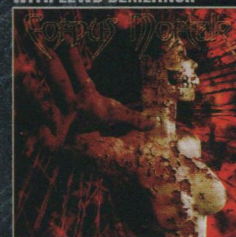
### RUINS SPUN FORTH AS DARK NETS



### PROSTITUTE DISFIGUREMENT LEFT IN GRISLY FASHION



### CORPUS MORTALE WITH LEWD DEMEANOR





How are things going with Suffocation now and what are the latest news around the band?

We had many live dates in the past few months... Currently we are working on the new album and trying to get that album done.

I guess 2005 was a very busy year for SUFFOCATION. Did you have time to write new songs and to make plans for the next record?

Yeah, that's why it took us so long. We took a couple of months... almost five months without booking any tours in order to just write. The question was whether we want to be on the road for a full year or we want to put out a new album. We didn't write any new material while we were on the road so we had to call off doing shows and just concentrate on writing. That's what we're doing in the moment.

Where did you make the video clip for „Surgery of Impalement“? Who did this video?

It was that guy - let me remember his name... Adam Wingard. We did it in the Eastern State peni-

## We still had the strength and the will to play.

If you read this and you never heard the name of SUFFOCATION, then you better give this magazine to the one you stole it from. I can imagine there is a reader of Brutalica who has at least heard about this band. Because they are not only a Death Metal band, they are a Death Metal icon. Now, almost 17 years after the forming of SUFFOCATION and 4 years after their reunion I decided it was time to speak to one of the most influential Death Metal bands of all time. I found the drummer Mike Smith at his home in New York, so here is the result of our conversation.

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV



mentary in Philadelphia. There we found some chambers and old places that were original to the United States. It was a real attraction to go inside there and make a video.

Speaking of videos, do you have plans to release a DVD? It would be great for all your fans and you really deserve such a release.

Yeah... We're working on our first DVD along with our new album, but we can't do them both at once. Work on the new album right now takes our whole time. We want to put out a quality product with that DVD. We wouldn't put it out if it doesn't really give the whole history of SUFFOCATION. It will take a little time to get all the information. It won't happen until we're done with the basic structure of our new album. We hope to get the both out until the end of 2006 for sure.

„SUFFOCATION is one of Death Metal's most plagiarized acts.“ This is a quotation from the „Choosing Death“ book and I agree completely. Maybe even you don't know how many bands were influenced by you over the years... But where do you think is the border between the influenced bands and the clones?

I don't know, I'm not sure if I can really answer the question right now... There's a bunch of bands out there who have a tremendous skill of their own but prefer to take a bit of SUFFOCATION. They have all the right to do that. There are a lot of clones out there but I respect that the fans know that. When they hear a band that sounds completely identical to another band they like, it's up to the fans whether they want to give them the right to experiment like a true Death Metal band or label them as clones. It's good for us to have bands that clone us or get influenced by us or whatever they want because that makes us known. I let them all take everything they want from SUFFOCATION. As long as they admit it I see no problem. Anyway, there will always be clones for a number of bands.

Talking about influences, what were yours back in 1990 when you formed SUFFOCATION? What about your influences now, in 2006? 16 years can be a

very long period of time for some people, while others can remain the same.

Yeah, and I think SUFFOCATION remained the same. When we started in '89, there weren't many bands in Death Metal. There were CARCASS and MORBID ANGEL and SLAYER, which were the first introduction to Death Metal for most of the bands. We took influence from everything, but Death Metal wasn't that big at that time. My influences while growing up were bands like IRON MAIDEN, LED ZEPPELIN and BLACK SABBATH who really showed us what rock was supposed to be. Once I started listening to bands like METALLICA and SLAYER, they took me to the complete Underground and changed my whole perception of what music could be.

How did things come up to the band's reunion? Who initiated it?

Our singer Frank Mullen called everybody. He was in Las Vegas at that time and we all lived in New York, so he was considering moving back. It was an option for him and he wanted to put the band again together. We still had the strength and the want and the will to play.

Why did you choose Relapse Records after the reformation of SUFFOCATION? Did you have any other offers and what were your relations with your previous label Roadrunner? A very contradictory name for many Death Metal bands, it seems now that only reformed OBITUARY are still signed on them.

Right, right... Well, Roadrunner is a big label but they really failed to understand what the impact of SUFFOCATION was on the Death Metal scene. When we decided to reform they weren't even an option to sign back to. Of course, we would have liked to have their size and distribution all across the world, but they wouldn't help us the way we wanted. There was an offer from Century Media and many more labels. Relapse's was the best. There is a history with us and Relapse and at this point of our career they know exactly what we are and we are their top priority.

What kind of music do you listen to with the whole

band while you travel on tours?

When we are in the tour bus there isn't a lot of heavy music played, truthfully. We are so burnt out from the shows and hearing that every night on top level that when we get on the bus, we aren't really focusing on what we listen to. We are tired and burnt out and we want to do anything else but sit down and focus on more music. A lot of bands hand us stuff and we check it out but we have a lot of other things to do, especially when we are on tour. There really are such manacles from sound checking to live show.

Have you ever had any problems with some racist assholes during all these years of playing in SUFFOCATION?

Racism? No, I haven't, truthfully. Throughout the years that I've been in there may have been a dummy in the audience who would want to throw at Hitler's sign or whatever he would want to do, but that quickly dies off because he realizes that he is at a SUFFOCATION show and everybody around is going to slam him. I think that most of the fans of SUFFOCATION appreciate us and see that the color means nothing in this band. When we came, we brought music that was unheard and we really set a course for how Death Metal is going to be. The stupidity of racism doesn't play a role in our career.

Can you imagine the following: SUFFOCATION opening a live appearance of The Black Eyed Peas?

Can I imagine it? I don't see why not. I don't think the audience will be ready for us but I'm ready to play with bigger acts and start spreading out the word. I don't think that The Black Eyed Peas could really stand on the same stage with SUFFOCATION. The crowd mixture would be so diverse, you know... Which are the five most disappointing albums for you of 2005?

First thing, you have to be listening to all the albums to be disappointed. I don't listen to the majority of Death Metal because for me it is just a repetition of what I already know. I would rather name five good albums than five disappointing albums... When we in

SUFFOCATION write an album, we listen to very little music outside of ourselves. We are a band that doesn't look for influence in any other bands. If you listen to all these Death Metal bands while you write an album you get cluttered, you can't focus on what you need to do. So I listen to very little, especially while in the process of creating a new album. I don't have time for other bands, as I listen to our own music hundreds and hundreds of times during the pre-production to make sure it is the best of all, and that people would love it.

Where did you record „Souls to Deny“ and would you use the same studio for your next album?

We recorded it in our own personal studio. We will consider it for the next record but we are open to all options. We're glad because we could invest in our own studio. For the next album, I don't know. We may record it there and then mix it somewhere else. What kind of drum kit and microphones did you use? I use a Tama drum kit and cymbals. At the time we did the album we

didn't have all the microphones that we wanted, so I used some AKGs. They weren't necessarily the best but the album still came out pretty well.

What is the current situation in the New York Death Metal scene? It seems the United States are in some kind of a big Death Metal revival in the last few years.

I think the whole Death Metal scene in general is reviving. New York Death Metal has always been strong and has always been among the best. I don't think that's ever going to change. Right now the fan base is really strong and there is a whole new generation of fans coming up.

Finally, do you approve the huge military budget of the USA that is more than 500 billion dollars? So much money could solve most of America's social problems. Is the so-called world terrorism really such a threat, or are things being politicized?

If we had the fortune to put into the military, then it makes sense. What we do with the military, I don't necessarily approve. Do I want a strong military? Of course! We all want it. It's just that we need someone who knows how to run it with a good common sense and not destroy other countries and territories that we have no business in. We go in there and ruin other people's lives so you've got to expect retaliation. And it's not the United States; I have to speak for George Bush. The majority of the United States does not agree with George Bush. I think he is the biggest asshole on the planet. There's terrorism because we are bullies and we go and try to dictate and spread our views over other people's religion and so on. We should expect them to be angry and to retaliate. Being a country that allows all people in, we'll never know who's coming with the intent to harm. That's stuff that we have to fear. Make people angry... they're going to retaliate. There will be those who want to harm the US for something we've done, because we invade places and sometimes destroy things that don't need to be destroyed. But no one has to answer for it while we have a president like George Bush. That's my opinion.



# Underneath The Waters Of The Golden Lake

**EERIE**

"Hollow stare" CD BR 003



*This release by EERIE is a me(n)tal revolution of its own. This band succeeded to capture the rawness of the old school Metal, giving it a new face with the help of modern technologies. The Eastern folk influences flavour the music and add a sort of a mystical romanticism. We should not forget to add that EERIE formed out of the ashes of MORTAL REMAINS, this legendary Doom Metal, that caused quite a sensation back in the early 90s.*

(Ivailo Tonchev, AON)

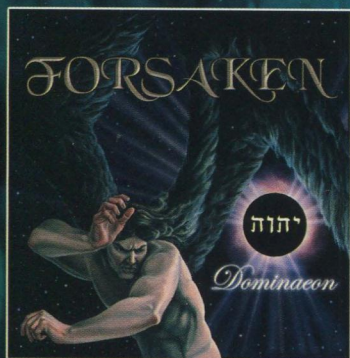
*"The full-length debut of Bulgaria's mystic Death Metallars EERIE is your ultimate chance to head for the Realm of Starless Oblivion!"*

(Vanya Marinova, Brutallica Magazine)

Be sure to check out the composition "The Pool", coming out in the free CD of the March issue of **TERRORIZER**

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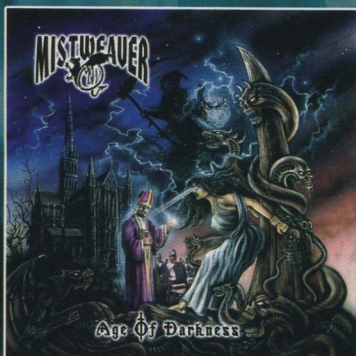
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Mistweaver "Age Of Darkness" CD

These Spaniards serve up their 4th studio release which illustrates their unique sound and refreshing approach to writing music. A superb blend of progressive death/doom metal with medieval touches and classy musicianship.

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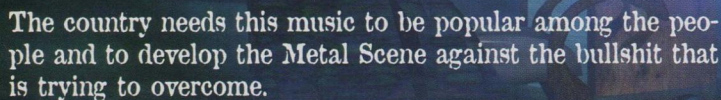
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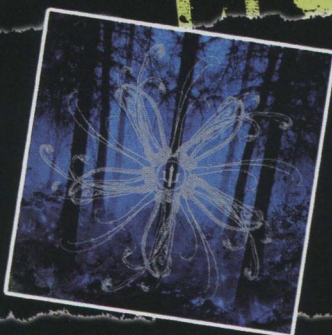
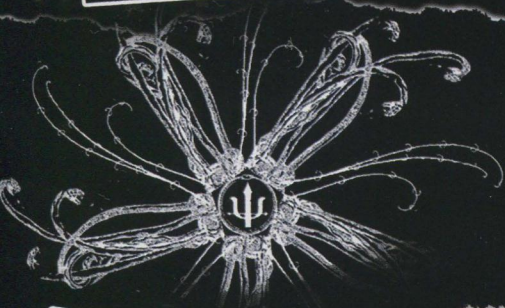
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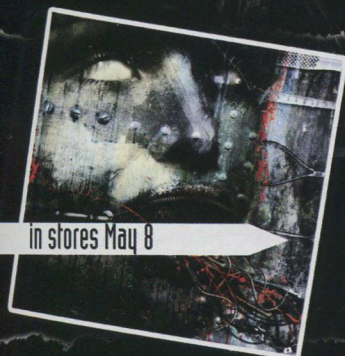
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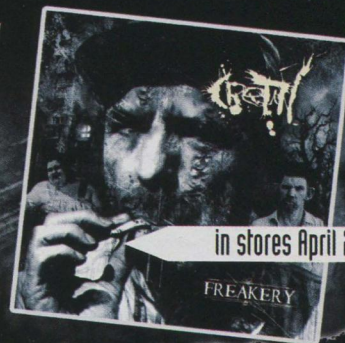


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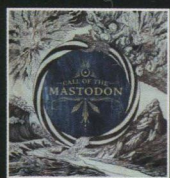
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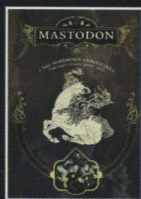


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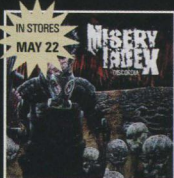
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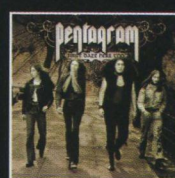


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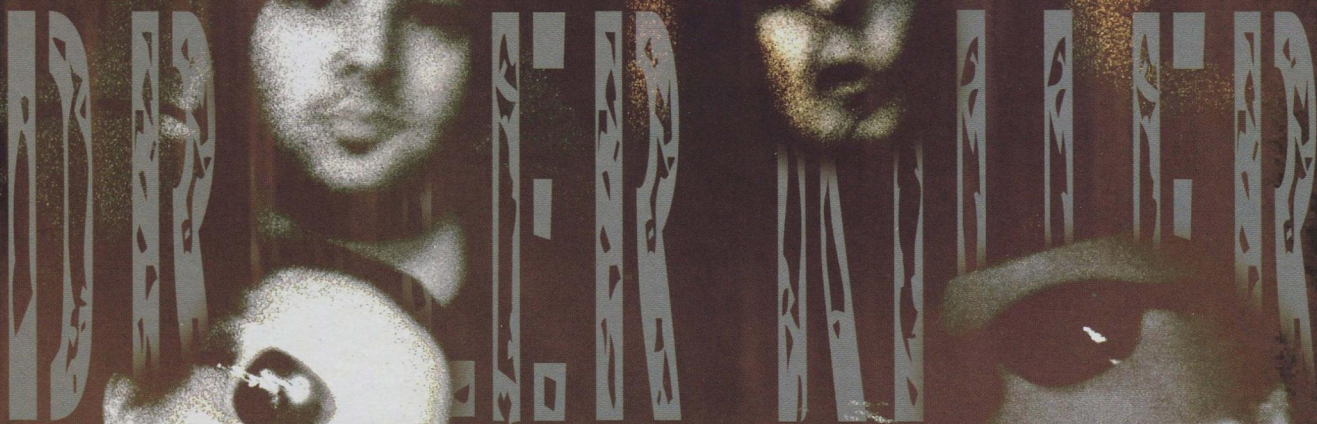
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**How many bands can praise to have 7 full-length albums and numerous vinyl EPs and splits and to be true to their roots? Not many-I think. Since 2000 DRILLER KILLER was in my list with bands that I dreamed to make interviews with and finally I had this pleasure so ladies and gentlemen let's see what the drummer Asp will tell us.**

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

Hello, DRILLER KILLER! I was dreaming to make an interview with you and finally I have got you on the pages of my magazine. Your music fuels me up with a lot of energy and power. I suppose that you feel the same way while playing music?

Asp: Hello to you!! Happy to make your dream come true! Yeah, it's a great kick playing.. physically it can be somewhat exhausting, but the rush of aggression & power is so sweet and cleansing that you just keep going..on & on & on... I hold in my hands your new record „The 4Q Mangrenade“. Which album in line is it and what would you distinguish it for if you compare it to your previous releases?

„The 4Q Mangrenade“ is our 7th full length album. It sounds like DK as always. The sound is really powerful & filthy/crusty on this one. It's hard to compare the albums, but it's less Metal than the „Cold,cheap...“ album & more Metal than the „and the winner is...“ album. No DK albums sound the same but it's still always DK you know...we deliver!

The sound is incredible! Where did you record the 12 songs and did you leave any tracks for the upcoming vinyl edition?

Yeah, it turned out great. Our engineer „Henrik Larsson“ is a magician & knows his DK well. We recorded it in the Sigsauer studio below ground in Malmoe. Shortly after we finished the album this studio was flooded, so it doesn't exist today! sorry, but no bonus tracks for the vinyl. However it includes a cool poster & totally different artwork than the CD.

I am having the feeling that while bands like DRILLER KILLER exist the vinyl is not going to die?!

Vinyl must never die...it's so much better than CD!!

What is the story of the band - who formed

DRILLER KILLER, who put this name and did you have a lot of line up changes?!

Cliff started DK as a sideproject when he was in ANTICIMEX back in '93. When AC quit he focused on DK & he's still going... There's always been some controversy around DK & a million line up changes!! Mostly bassplayers...don't know why. I guess it's hard to find the right people, not every clown is circus material... Anyway, here we are with a back catalogue of 7 albums.

What is the topic of the „Ugliness Formula One“ track? Could it be Schumacher related? Ha-ha...

Hehe...not really. But it's about a certain person from Germany who has bothered Cliff... I dare not say more...

Beer, Sex and Rock n Roll - anything else that a DRILLER KILLER member might need?

1 or 2 other substances might be welcome...ha-ha.

I heard that the Osmose Productions runner is a huge fan of your music - do you remember which pub you signed the contract in or have you forgotten already that this has ever happened?!

Yes, Mister Bossman has stuck with us through ups & downs, win or lose...and we're still on Osmose! The pub story must be a rumour... I don't think that's how it happened. It was more like a telephone / mailing contracts forth & back thing.

A friend told me that there was a connection between DRILLER KILLER and IMPALED NAZARENE. Is that true?

Absolutely. We even did a split 7" playing covers of each other's songs. DK & IN also toured together back in '98.

In general, who writes the lyrics and who writes the music? I suppose that you start with the music first?

Cliff or Adam usually come up with song concepts

at home & then we bake it in the DK-oven at rehearsals for a while & voila!! Cliff then writes lyrics continuously and tries them out to the different pieces... It's as simple as that...

Your music is not complex, but it rules. It looks like simpler things are easier to understand and accept by people?

I think the important thing is the feel of it all...the power, aggression, the whole mood...complicated or simple. It's the emotion of the music that grabs you...not the skill of the musicians!!

The 4<sup>th</sup> track in „The 4Q Mangrenade“ ends all of a sudden, as though the CD is damaged or something... Still, I assume that this has been done on purpose: is there a hidden message actually?

We just felt that it was a good way to link it with song #5. Instead of a traditional fade-out, and like you said...you reacted to it...good if the listener lost focus or wandered off in other thoughts!! A good trick, don't you think?!

I have read various descriptions of the DRILLER KILLER music - Death Metal, Crust, Crust Core, Metal Punk... How do YOU define your music and your influences, and do journalists' categorizations mean anything to you at all?

We don't care about categorizations...no one ever gets it right anyway! It's like we're the ugly duckling to the Metal Scene & too mainstream / sell-outs (coz we're on a major label like Osmose) for the pun! We have the Metal elements & the Crust elements & Rock'n'Roll elements & the Heavy Metal elements and blabla... We just play what we ourselves would like to listen to...we do it all for ourselves!!

I recently watched a Swedish movie named „Cops“, which ridicules Swedish cops a lot. Pretty funny movie, I don't know if you have watched it. We have heard of many Swedish bands, but it is quite seldom when Swedish movies reach us: what

is the reason for that, in your opinion?

I guess coz most movies suck!! I've never seen a Bulgarian movie. This is probably also because of the language barrier, in Sweden we don't dub movies etc... I guess there's always subtitles but... don't know.

What are your fave Swedish artists / bands?

Hmm... There's so many Swedish acts...not really into any.

The latest piece of crap that you listened to? The market today is full of polished records but most of them are like clones of other releases...

There's so much crap out there... I protect myself against this by not listening to it, I just buy new albums with 2 or 3 bands that really mean something to me. They never let me down!! The whole music scene is full of old reruns...stuck on repeat!!

Have you planned any tours / live performances for 2006?

We just did 10 dates in Germany & Czech Republic. Confirmed at the moment are festival shows at Hardmetalfest (Portugal), Fuck the Commerce" (Germany) & Obscene Extreme (Czech Republic). Preliminary also „Puntala-rock festival" (Finland), we hope to do some more touring in the fall!!

Your CD covers are rather brutal. I suppose that your albums have been banned from some shops already?

Yes, I think there was a problem with the "Reality Bites" cover in some countries in '98. But I haven't heard of anything like that since.

When will we see a DRILLER KILLER DVD too?

We try to gather as much material as possible from the past or present. Maybe it will become a DVD someday...no idea & no promises!!

Final words for the headbangers?

Bang heads, drink beer & hope to see you on the road some day!! CHEEERRRRSSSS!!!



# GLORY IN THE DEPTHS

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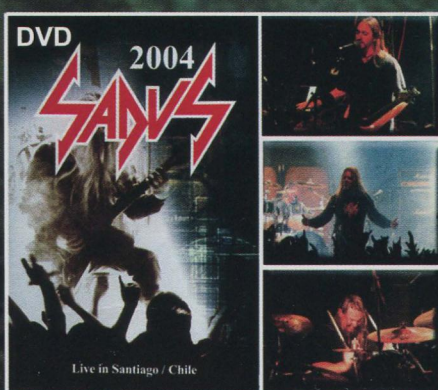
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## Music, not just for Metal, should be about passion and inner feelings

Thirteen years in the Underground. Or to say it better: thirteen years in Black Metal?! Not many artists in the genre have survived so many years. But it seems that HORNA not only survived but they are even full of enthusiasm to make it again. Maybe there is some magic? Or simply they are the right people on the right place? Who knows?! Anyway this interview with the Finnish Black Metal worshippers HORNA might open slightly the door...

STEFAN STEFANOV

Hi! Please try to describe with a few words the music you play to those who don't know the band.

Shatraug: Hellz. HORNA performs Black Metal

as envisioned and reflected by our hearts, with devotion to darkness within and about our beings.

Thirteen years in the underground... How did

HORNA survive through all these years? What is your hope for the future, will be there a new release soon?

When there is enough passion to keep going time loses its relevance. It's been a few years now that we no longer have any "need" to push on, only creating what we want and when we feel like it. We are determined to manifest through music all our lives probably. HORNA itself is only one face of it, though most known. Next release will be a concept album about black death to be issued by Debemur Morti Productions on 6.6.2006.

Are you a typical Black Metal band?

I wouldn't say so. We started fairly typical with our biggest interest on the music, just to play and maybe one day get an album out. Those dreams were long since fulfilled... almost 10 years passed. Through the years it's easy to see that we are more possessed with Black Metal than before, at least I am.



No, nothing sure to say yet unfortunately. Do you feel nostalgia for Metal music from the 80's like the most extreme artists?

For some music, always. For some other... never. Bands like IRON MAIDEN, HELLOWEEN...those are forever close at heart. What is the ideology that stands behind this eerie logo of the Horned One, inverted crosses and the sixes? Where were you inspired from?

This logo was made by Christophe Szpajdel over 10 years ago. It fit to the aggression and hatred we were possessed with at that time. Through the years we kept it. I personally hate bands that change their old logos for something modern or different. We are proud of the past and embrace it still each day within our blood, it will not be neglected. It was a typical Black Metal logo for the time.

What's your opinion about this that the Black Metal is music for a narrow circle of people? There will always be some music that won't reach the masses, I'm sure of it...in that context this claim is rightful to its full extent. HORNA is an active concert band. Where did you play live last and where are you planning to play in the near future?

At this moment we are not planning anything due to unfortunate events leaving us with no drummer... The last gig was at Misanthropic Violence festival in Austria last October.

What kind of persons are you outside the band?

Well, I can speak for myself that I am exactly the same outside this band as well...as fucked up, possessed, evil, passionate...you name it. I do not hold any artificial image next to myself. I am just me. I think other persons are the same in HORNA, nobody has a mask of lies or behaves different in other circumstances...

Have you ever wanted to kill, and why, if you have?

Surely. There are many occasions, many reasons but so far not one strong enough to make me risk throwing away the rest of my own life as well to reach personal gratification in such means.

What could you say to all the posers and wannabes who think Metal music and all behind it is just fashion and nothing more? I would like to say fuck off but that would go to deaf ears... Music, not just for Metal, should be about passion and inner feelings. HORNA members take part in other bands. Say something about some of them, for example SARGEIST, SOTAJUMALA, KOR-GONTHURUS, OBSCURANT, MORBID SAVOURING...?

Well, SARGEIST is a band where I am in, pure satanic devotion and worship... KOR-GONTHURUS is the solo band of Corvus, primitive and crude Black Metal. SJ or OBSCURANT I don't know shit about, they are just bands where our live bassist has been or is in. MS is dead since long time.

Your opinion about the global slavery that humanity walks towards? Perhaps you have a different standpoint?

Humans are blind... Masses follow examples that are easiest for them, no matter what the consequences.

Have you ever heard about any bands from Bulgaria?

Yeah, I remember ORK and VASSILIUM, didn't like either one. I don't remember any good bands from there in Black Metal...

Thanks for the interview. Say your final words to our readers.

Blood begets blood.

and I have ventured deep into the lair of darkness little by little, devoting each day of my life to it. So, if we speak of TRUE Black Metal as I see it, we are typical good example of it, but, if we talk of Black Metal as the common and accepted music of today then we are against this commercial idiocy. To us Black Metal has always been a matter of blood and soul.

Let's talk about your last full-length creation „Envaatnags Effos Solf Esgantaavne"... Where did you record the album and how much time did it take?

This album was recorded at my own Boneyard studio. I can't really say how much time we used but from the start to finish it took around 3 months before all things were recorded. Drums were done in three different sessions for example.

Say something about the album lyrics because only a few people know Finnish.

They are poetic and dark verses reflecting visions and ideas of Satanist minds.

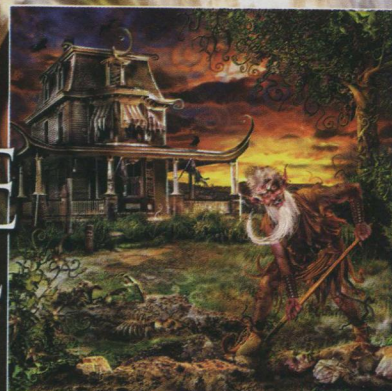
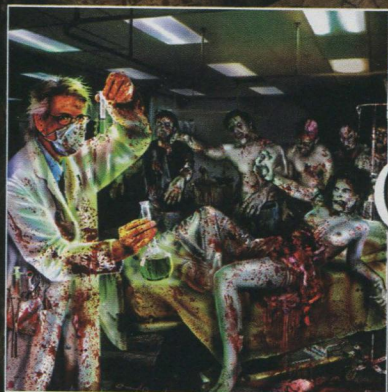
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## We're a happy bunch of Tasmanians

I know PSYCROPTIC from their very beginning, their self-released debut „The Isle Of Disenchantment“ left me with a very good impression some years ago. Since then I was sure this band has a future despite the fact they are from the very, very distant island of Tasmania. It is not so important where they are from, the important thing here is their music and believe me, if you are a brutal Death Metal fan you will LOVE PSYCROPTIC as I did when I heard their last masterpiece „Symbols Of Failure“. I hope the following interview will help you to find out who the fuck are PSYCROPTIC!

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

Hi, guys. I have just tested my new home cinema system Onkyo with your new album „Symbols of Failure“ and both the Onkyo and your record are great. You make me feel very excited. How did you feel when you first heard the completed album?

Haha, that's great to hear...glad you liked the album (and your new system). Well, it was quite cool to hear the completed album, as we'd been hard at work on the songs in the practice room for quite some time. It was a huge relief actually...to finally get the new songs on disc so we can get out on the road and play the songs live. So, we're excited as much as you are!! We all agree that this is our most mature album to date. We're a happy bunch of Tasmanians.

I'm sure you did a lot of rehearsals to make the 9 compositions included in „Symbols of Failure“. From my own experience I know that such technical performances are quite difficult to record. How many days took you to record the album and especially the incredible drum part?

Yeah, we did do a lot of rehearsals for it... Well, we actually practice quite a lot anyway so a few extra practices weren't much of a problem any-

way. Usually we rehearse 3 to 4 times a week, but we probably did about 5 to 6 times a week leading up to going into the studio. It took me 3 or 4 days to record the drums to a level that I was happy with. Some songs took only 1 or 2 goes to get, others took a lot (haha). Once the drums were done we took it all to Joe (Guitars) studio where he recorded the rest of the album over the course of a month or so. It was kind of a staggered process as we had some shows to play in between. I think next time we record we will just focus on the actual recording and not book any shows. Other than that it was a smooth process. Where did you record the album? I think the guy who has recorded the album deserves at least a box of good whiskey!!! Which was the hardest track for recording?

The drums were recorded in a studio called Red Planet, which is 5 minutes from my house... which made things easy. Joe completed the rest of the recording and mixing in his „joebivan“ studio that he has. I can't exactly remember which track was the hardest to record, as they were all pretty challenging. I think we all had different songs that we thought were the hardest...oh, and

don't mention that Joe deserves a box of whiskey, as he'll take us up on that offer!!

Sorry for my ignorance, what does PSYCROPTIC mean and who put this name as your band name?

PSYCROPTIC doesn't actually mean anything...it is a made up word. The guy who actually came up with the name flipped out and went mental... I think he is still in a mental institution. We couldn't come up with a band name and this guy just came out with the word PSYCROPTIC. We liked it and decided to use it. People can come up with their own meaning for the name if they like.

Why did you leave Unique Leader? What I know is that Eric and Jacoby are good guys, totally devoted to the Underground Scene!

Yeah, they are totally cool guys, and devoted, and we are friends with them of course. We just really needed a fresh start after the line up change in the band. That's all really. Nothing against UL at all...we just wanted to take a risk and try something new that we'd done before. Neurotic are a very promising label that we have high hopes for. How did it come up to your contact with Neurotic Records, a new but very ambitious label?

We had known Ruud for a while (label manager), as he released the album from another band I play in called RUINS. We were very happy with what he had done, so after he offered us a good deal and after a lot of discussions we went with Neurotic. We are quite confident in their abilities and we're sure they can do something good with the album. Does Neurotic Records have plans to re-release your debut and self released album „The Isle of Disenchantment“ plus some bonus stuff?

No, there hasn't been any talk of that at all. I don't think it will happen, as I'm not sure there is sufficient demand for it. Added to that, it's still quite easy to get a hold of via a lot of distributors, so if people want it, they can find it. I would prefer us to just put all our efforts into the future rather than going back to the past. That's not saying it

will never happen, but there are no plans for it at this stage.

What was the reason for your old vocalist Matthew to leave PSYCROPTIC?

We asked him to leave. After quite a while of tension within the band, we felt it was the only choice we had. His attitude was becoming vastly different to ours, and he didn't like the touring aspect of the band. He didn't come with us on our first tour of Europe, and we couldn't really continue with that hanging over the band. Jason (new vocalist) came with us to Europe and fitted into the band very well. We're tighter as friends than we have ever been before.

I guess Tasmania is not the most suitable place for a brutal Death / Grind band like PSYCROPTIC. Can you tell me more info about the scene in this place? Was it hard to make the band and are there other good names?

Well, I would have to say Tasmania is actually a good place to have a band, due to the fact that there are minimal distractions. We all live close to each other so we can practice a lot. There isn't a „scene“ really so we aren't influenced by any outside factors...we can just fully concentrate on the band. There are quite a few good bands down here like INTENSE HAMMER RAGE, ZERO DEGREE'S FREEDOM, RUINS and LURKING...but these bands are located all over the state. The main difficulty is the fact that we are on an island, so it's quite costly to travel, but that's about the only problem we face really. Tasmania is a really nice place to live as well.

Do you feel annoyed by the fact that your album is available to download from the internet before to be released officially? As though the internet became a two-edge dagger, it is good for promotion but a lot of people download whole albums for free.

Yeah, it kind of sucks that the whole album was available like 3 days after the promo CDs were



sent out...especially since (at the time of this interview) we haven't even got our copies of the album. It would be great if everyone who downloaded the album bought it, but that will never happen. A lot of people don't realise how much it actually hurts the bands as most people assume that since you have a CD or two released you must be making a lot of money (haha). We fuckin wish!! On the other hand downloading does give extra promotion, and a lot of people who would have never heard of us probably now will. But financially for the bands and labels involved, downloading is really hurting the scene.

Since I don't have the lyrics, I can only suppose from the track names what they are about...It seems that you pay a lot of attention to the lyrical part in your albums as well, am I right?

Yes, the lyrics are quite important...not because we carry some kind of "message"...just because we want all parts to be equal. There isn't any point in having great guitar riffs and cool drum parts, and the having shitty lyrics. We just want to have a high quality rounded package. The lyrics on the new album are quite different to what we've done before...they are mainly dealing with twisted sci fi themes. We hope people can enjoy them for what they are, and take what ever meaning they see fit. You have toured with bands such as INCANTATION, DEED OF FLESH, HATE ETERNAL, all of them professional bands. In your opinion, what are the main differences between PSYCROPTIC and the above mentioned bands in professional aspect?

I guess we learned a lot about actually looking after ourselves on the road from these bands, as they have toured quite extensively...and we're just starting to do a lot more touring so the tips are coming in handy. I guess since we've taken on board a lot of the "professional" aspects of these mentioned bands there isn't a lot that differs in the way we actually conduct ourselves professionally. We try to treat everyone with respect and courtesy, and of course we expect it in return.

What is your opinion about religions? Where do you see the connection between some religions and the so-called "world terrorism"?

I'm not a fan of any organised religion, as all they do is to enslave people to feel like they are "beneath" a higher power. Fuck that! People should feel as they are in control of their 'destiny' and not influenced by a 'god' or whatever. I see some connections between certain aspects of terrorism and religions...but not as much as the media and governments would like us to think. We are living in an age where governments and the media use fear to control people. There is an excellent documentary called 'Loose change' that everyone should watch that outlines exactly how much the governments of the world are involved in so called 'terrorism'. I personally feel there is more behind it than we are actually told...but, that's my opinion anyway.

Speaking of the world terrorism, do you endorse the foreign policy of your government? Why most of the Metal bands despise the politics and their line?

I don't endorse our government's foreign policy, no. I think it actually does more harm than good. Most Australians feel the same way. But, in the end, it's a bunch of politicians in back rooms making these deals to further their own ideals and careers. I would say that many Metal bands (and people into more extreme subcultures) openly despise certain areas of politics because they don't feel scared to do so. In a lot of cases people into Metal are already looked down upon by mainstream society, so speaking their views won't do much to (further) harm their reputations. Mainstream society might feel the same way politically, but might feel scared to voice such opinions.

You already have 3 albums behind your backs so we can't take you for a young band. Can you give here some advices to young Death Metal bands that make their first steps? What is the most important thing for a band to survive in the first 5 years?

I would say to have a strong friendship within the band, and to set realistically achievable goals. This way everyone is working on getting to the same place both musically and professionally. If

each member in the band is pulling in different directions then reaching a goal is going to be near impossible. Other than that, I would suggest trying something different musically and not being scared to experiment.

In the past the communist system was preaching that Heavy Metal is music only for outsiders and degenerated people in the West. I guess the politics in your area are also not very kind toward the Metal music as a whole?

Well, yes and no. Our local government has an Arts and Music department, which is totally supportive of PSYCROPTIC and our music. Believe it or not, but at the moment PSYCROPTIC are the most widely distributed band from Tasmania, so we are very much supported. They have given us grants in the past to help us tour, which was very generous of them. Politically, there isn't too much of a backlash against Metal... but occasionally some politicians use the subject of extreme music to push their ideals (i.e. should be banned due to content, etc)... but very rarely.

How is the weather now in Tasmania? By the way, where does the name of Tasmania come from?

The weather out here is OK at the moment. We're still in summer, but it is cooling off a bit now. In summer it can get up to 40 degrees, but in winter we usually have snow on the top of the mountain above our city, Hobart. So the weather is quite varied actually. Embarrassing as it is, I don't actually know where the name Tasmania comes from.

Do you have some big Metal festivals where a brutal Death Metal band like PSYCROPTIC can perform live? What is the current situation in Australia now? Labels, bands, tours, magazines, etc...

Yeah, there are a number of Metal festivals that attract from 500 to 2000 people out here. The biggest one is called Metal for the Brain, which is a charity gig with all money going towards brain injury research, another festival is Bloodlust, which is more extreme orientated and a new fest that has just started is Brute Force festival, which I'm hoping will be a good event. The Metal scene out

here isn't too bad...there are quite a few cool brutal bands like INTENSE HAMMER RAGE, 3 VICTIMS, LURKING, FUCK I'M DEAD, and a few others. There aren't too many magazines these days...mainly webzines, etc. We are starting to get quite a few more extreme tours out here which is really cool...it's a good time for Metal out here at the moment.

Neurotic Records have plans to organize a big Death Metal fest...Neurotic Deathfest. I guess your participation is a 100 % sure regardless of the very long distance from your home land. Do you know what other bands will take part in it?

Yeah, we're 100% down for it, as it will be at the end of our European tour we're doing with HATE ETERNAL and BELPHEGOR. We do about 20 dates with these guys, then we have a couple of days off then we play the fest. Some of the other bands to play on the fest will be DISAVOWED, AVULSED, GOREOTTED, ARSEBREED, among a heap more. It will be a great day, I'm sure...we cannot wait for it!

Have you ever met the world famous Tasmanian devil Taz and have you ever experienced his mischievous attitude towards life?

Haha, yes, I've seen Tasmanian Devils around... they are a real animal. They are about the size of a mid-sized dog and are native to Tasmania. They are not found anywhere else in the world. At the moment there is a strange disease that is threatening the existence of them...the government is funding projects to find out how to cure this problem and insure that the devils continue to exist. I hope they find a cure, as I quite like what these animals symbolise (hehe).

Any final thoughts from you to end this interview? Thanks so much for the interview...very cool questions. For those who have not heard PSYCROPTIC, please check us out at

[www.psydroptic.com](http://www.psydroptic.com) or  
[www.myspace.com/psydroptic](http://www.myspace.com/psydroptic).

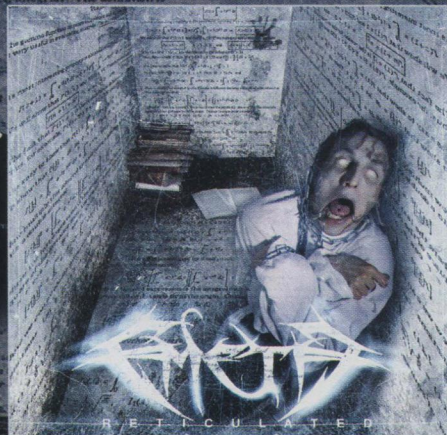
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# PAST REDEMPTION

**We are already a great working Death Metal Machine!**

Born back in 1992, PAST REDEMPTION has always been one of the most powerful and extreme Bulgarian Metal bands ever. There was a 10-year period of time when the band was inactive. However, nowadays there are far more interesting things happening around it. PAST REDEMPTION released a brand new, kick-ass album called „Forever Burning Scorn“. The original guitar player Krassy and the mad bass player Mitco will tell you things about the new album, the band and the Bulgarian Metal Scene.

**GARO PILIBOSYAN**

**Congratulations on your new album „Forever Burning Scorn“, what a slaughter! Are you personally satisfied with what you have done?**

**Krassy:** Thanks! I hope that fans will like it. When we finished with the mastering of the album we were very satisfied with the final result. Now that I have heard it hundreds of times I feel that it could have been better, but I hope we will make it with our next album.

**Mitco:** We worked on it a lot and it became good on the whole, but we are never satisfied with ourselves and aim at higher goals. If we stay satisfied with something that we have already achieved that would mean stagnation, and this will never happen to us.

**Apart from the Bulgarian stores, which other places in the world can be your album purchased from or should one contact directly Counter Attack Productions?**

**K:** As far as I'm concerned, Counter Attack Productions have done their best „Forever Burning Scorn“ to be released outside Bulgaria. Copies are sent almost everywhere they might cause interest. Till then, the album can be ordered from Counter Attack Productions at <http://counterattack.dir.bg>

**What stands behind the CD cover representing the lad scratching on the wall?**

**K:** Hal! That was funny to hear, as it is actually a

female that the cover represents. The whole idea of the album was hovering around a favourite movie of mine, namely „Hellraiser“. The tracks themselves are in a chronological order and that was the only picture that I was imagining, while listening to the album. We had come to the decision that it would be ridiculous to continue with the typically Death Metal layouts.

**How did you succeed to get so high and be recognized as one of the best and most extreme Bulgarian bands after 10 years of silence? What is this owing to?**

**M:** Above all, we are very good friends, we are always together (around the table), and I personally think that this is the strongest feature of PAST REDEMPTION. About the very beginning I can't tell anything because I'm in the band since 2004, but things right now are just like I portrayed them.

**K:** We have never aimed at becoming stars, and we have never looked for recognition. We just do what we like and give a lot of ourselves with no reservation. Indeed, after such a long pause it will be rather hard. We started from nowhere and I'm really happy that we are already a great working Death Metal Machine!

**Do you observe the development of the world Metal Scene? Any new releases that might have impressed you?**

**M:** I definitely watch what's going on worldwide. I personally enjoyed the latest album of OBITUARY. But we try not to listen to other bands too much, because this would sooner or later lead to imitating other band's sound, and we have already built our own PAST REDEMPTION style, and we have consolidated it with our latest album.

**K:** Honestly speaking, I have quite vague observations of the World Metal Scene. And each of us has his own musical tastes. I feel glad that I could see my favorite bands live - MEGADETH and W.A.S.P. in Sofia. I hope we will see SLIPKNOT too.

**On 10.12.2005 you organized a fest in the memory of Chuck Schuldiner, where some of Bulgaria's most respected bands took part, and the lights and effects were on a really professional level. Are activities like that worth the money and nerves?**

**M:** Nerves and money, what are you talking about? Of course that it WAS worth the nerves and money. Naturally, it was all connected with a lot of work, but when one sees the outcome later, satisfaction is a hundred percent guaranteed. I think that all the people who attended the concert would confirm it. Of course, all the credits should go to Stefan (drums on PAST REDEMPTION) and Vladimir (bass on HYPERBOREA). The lights, the sound...everything went perfect. And I also think that the bands themselves (PAST REDEMPTION, HYPERBOREA, THE REVENGE PROJECT, CLAYMORE, WARTIME...e.d.) acted like utter professionals...I mean it, they all rocked. As a whole, I think that this concert will be in people's mouths for many months ahead.

**Your albums since 1993 and 1994 sound rather primal and are more like Grind-oriented, while you play definitely more technically now, with a Death Metal sound. Is it the change of tastes / time / the line up that stands behind this?**

**K:** I am not sure of what this is due to but I know that the tendency is our next album to be more brutal and technical than „Forever Burning Scorn“.

**Brutallica Records shows interest in re-releasing both of your albums on one CD. Do you think this is possible? I suppose that Riva Sound has no the final word here anymore...?**

**K:** We are considering the idea of re-releasing our albums, but we will work on their remixing first. We also think of adding unreleased songs which will make out of the CD an interesting compilation. When everything gets ready and if interest is available, we might discuss it. As for Riva sound, there is nothing to talk about.

**M:** Yeah, in my opinion things will get very good if we start working with Brutallica Records.

**Is there life after death?**

**K:** If I get back from the other side someday, you will be the first to know.

**M:** FUCK! If I think a bit, there is. For example, a few days ago all around me claimed I was gone and now I'm writing total crap and I'm trying to think. There is obviously life after death!

**Future plans? Studio work, releases, concerts...?**

**M:** We will have to drink a lot of alcohol before that, ha-ha-ha. That's the first part of the plan, and the rest will come to its place by itself. We have finished the work on several tracks for the next album, we even played some of them on 19.02.2006 - the „Forever Burning Scorn“ release party, and I think that they were accepted very well by the crowd. Otherwise, we are concentrated on the stage appearances in April, when we will play with several Death Metal bands from abroad.

**K:** I can say for sure that there will be no more 1-year pauses even. Do not expect us to play at one and the same club every month though... I think that's boring and pointless, we prefer to stay in our rehearsal place and work on new material instead.

**Final words to the Brutallica readers from all over the world?**

**M:** I'm not the man who sends messages and other crap like that. However, I am sure that your readers are cool people who support the Bulgarian Metal Scene. Let's listen to Bulgarian bands and buy their albums instead of downloading mp3s and then wondering why one good band or another has ceased to exist. Ok, I guess I was here too long, my anisette turned into tea already!

**K:** Do what you like to!

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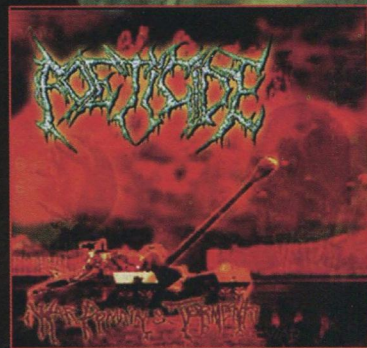
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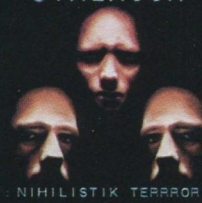


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# REVIEWES

10 - HITS THE CEILING! 9,0 - BRILLIANT! 8,0 - GROUND BREAKING! 7,0 - OKAYISH! 5,0 TO 6,0 - COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER! 1,0 TO 4,0 - TOTAL TIME WASTE

## RUINS

*"Spun Forth as Dark Nets" CD*  
**NEUROTIC**  
So here it comes again - another surprise on the Underground market. I mean - you don't come across a grim Black Metal band coming from the sunny land of the Tasmanian devil, right? Yes, RUINS are from Tasmania and their line-up features David Haley (drummer of the better known PSYCROPTIC and THE AMENTA) and Alex responsible for all the strings and vocals. After their debut MCD "Atom and Time" from 2004, "Spun Forth as Dark Nets" is the first full-length of RUINS released via Neurotic records from The Netherlands. The music is influenced by the Norwegian Black Metal sound from the mid-90's and SATYRICON in particular. The riffs are typical for the genre, the drumming is tight and very professionally executed and Alex's harsh voice is very close to Satyr's one. Other positive things about this CD are the mastering done by the famous Tue Madsen (THE HAUNTED, ABORTED...) and the mystic cover artwork done by Lorenzo Marianni (DARKTHRONE). In case you miss the old sound of the mighty SATYRICON, RUINS will be a pleasure for your ears. Or torment, depending on who's asking...  
Tsvetan Rachev.....8,0



## CALVARIUM

*"Assaulting The Divine" CD*  
**DYNAMIC ARTS Records**  
"CALVARIUM's base was built up to honour the old Black Metal values and roots" - that's what the info sheet says. Judging by the picture of the band - three corpse-painted guys with bullet-belts and inverted crosses in a wintry forest - they must be TRUE oldschool worshippers! CALVARIUM comes from Finland and their line-up features Veilroth on guitars (ex-BEHYEM and ALGHANANTH), Lord Sarcofagium (BAPTISM) on drums and Molestor Kadotus (ex-ANAL BLASPHEMY) doing the screams. "Assaulting The Divine" is the second effort of CALVARIUM after the debut "Skull of Golgotha" released in 2003. This MCD offers four songs of raw Black Metal with gloomy atmosphere typical for the bigger part of the Finnish bands and tempo varying from slow to diabolically fast. Quite a good release from this Finnish Black Metal band.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5



## NEURAXIS

*"Truth Beyond..." CD*  
**ERACHE**  
It is the third album for the Canadian Death Metal machine formed as early as 1994. It is one of the bands that combine sheer Metal brutality with a certain melodic edge. This particular album doesn't make a difference, featuring guest appearances by Lenzig, Zac and Jawsh from CEPHALIC CARNAGE, Steve from DESPISED ICON and Youri from UNHUMAN. Fast, melodic, sheer energy and passion hidden in 60 minutes and 22 tracks. A must for all Death Metal freaks!  
Ivailo Tonchev.....8,0



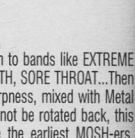
## HOPE OF PENANCE

*"Paganry For Martyrs" CD*  
**XTEEM MUSIC**  
I had the pleasure to review the first album of Italy's HOPE OF PENANCE - "Disturbance" for a previous issue of Brutalica 'zine and now I have in my player their second effort - "Paganry For Martyrs". First thing that stroke me was the tight and precise drumming of Mauro who can easily compete with such great musicians as Derik Roddy or Pete Sandoval. This is the same brutal Death Metal assault typical for Florida's own DEICIDE, MORBID ANGEL, HATE ETERNAL... The growling of Alex fits great the aggressive sound of HOPE OF PENANCE, my only remark is towards the guitars' sound that could have been cleaner. In the end "Paganry for Martyrs" is one really good Death Metal album, not very original but for true Death Metal heads!  
Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5



## MISTRESS

*"In Disput We Trust" CD*  
**ERACHE**  
First it was the UK HC, that gave birth to bands like EXTREME NOISE TERROR, DOOM, NAPALM DEATH, SORE THROAT... Then it became Grind, lost its political sharpness, mixed with Metal and became big. Though history can not be rotated back, this MOSH 293 sounds pretty much like the earliest MOSH-ers. Made out of ex-members of SALLY, ANAAL NATHRAKH, FROST, and BENEDICTED, it continues with some ENTOMBED like sound, powered with a lot of Punk attitude and a BRUTAL TRUTH touch. 20 years later this stuff has lost a lot of its razor-edged lyrics, has become more professional soundwise, yet it still makes my blood run. Of course, this is not the classic machine-gun rhythm with screamed out vocals, but it's an entertaining listen, with the unexpected twist that the band brings in. A promising one!  
Ivailo Tonchev.....7,0



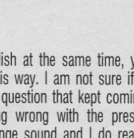
## CRITERION

*"The Dominant" CD*  
**MORBID**  
There are some interesting facts about CRITERION: 1. They are a Death Metal band coming from the kingdom of Black Metal... Norway; 2. They've started as a METALLICA-cover band back in the distant 1994 and 3. "The Dominant" is their debut CD and it's great! CRITERION bet on memorable riffs and melodic leads unlike most of the hyper-speed Death acts of today. Kim Nybakken's style of playing the guitar reminds of James Murphy, excellent skills! The band has elements from the brutal sound of DISINCARNATE and MONSTROSITY plus some Black Metal touches which is unavoidable if you play extreme music in Norway I guess! The fierce roars of John Urbanski are impressive too. CRITERION is one of the best releases of the German Morbid Records and deserves your attention for sure!  
Tsvetan Rachev.....9,0



## CROWPATH

*"Red On Chrome" CD*  
**ERACHE**  
It is hard to be original and Swedish at the same time, yet CROWPATH have really gone far this way. I am not sure if it done on purpose, but there was a question that kept coming to my mind... "Is there something wrong with the pressing/mixing?" This band has a strange sound and I do really mean that. Check that by yourself... The mixing (d)effect is something that also adds flavour to their original style. If we can use musical terms, think of some "screamo" type vocals, technical death Metal, mixed with hyper fast grind attacks that come out of the nothing. This is so simple to be described, yet so complicated to be made. Is this the next big thing coming outta Sweden? I wish I knew...  
Ivailo Tonchev.....8,0



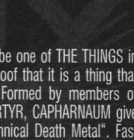
## PAIN

*"Dancing With The Dead" CD*  
**STOCKHOLM Records**  
Many things may be said about Peter Tagtgren but one's true for sure - his music doesn't leave you indifferent! No matter if we're talking about Death Metal, Black Metal or sounds closer to the realms of Dark Wave than to any Metal at all. I remember reading an interview with Peter made just before the release of "Rebirth", the second PAIN album, where Mr. Tagtgren said that he wanted this project to sound like RAMMSTEIN but more commercial. I don't know if he had succeeded in that but the truth is that "Dancing with the Dead" offers enchanting synth melodies, powerful guitar riffs and the unique voice of Peter telling stories about his personal view on the world today and his life in particular. Every song has a little explanation what it's about from Peter himself - some tracks are dealing with his recent health problems ("Don't Count Me Out"), the organized crime ("The Third Wave") or the media brainwashing machine ("The Same Old Song"). If you're fans of the previous PAIN albums you'll like "Dancing With The Dead" for sure!  
Tsvetan Rachev.....8,5



## CAPHARNAUM

*"Fractured" CD*  
**ERACHE**  
Death Metal from Florida used to be one of THE THINGS in the 90s. This group is surely a proof that it is a thing that will not pass away too quickly. Formed by members of MONSTROSITY, TRIVIUM and MARTYR, CAPHARNAUM give a new definition to the term "technical Death Metal". Fast and virtuously played and the bursts of melodic solos have their precise places. It's like a well-tuned machine that can go on forever. Let me finish the review and play it again! Can't praise it more than that!  
Ivailo Tonchev.....8,5



## KATALEXIA

*"Catastrophic Scenes" CD*  
**XTEEM MUSIC**  
KATALEXIA are the consecutive proof of the unavoidable world globalization! The band was started by Rodrigo "Fatality" Artica, vocals and drums, citizen of El Salvador (Central America) in Helsinki, Finland in 2003. One album "Morgue's Reality" was recorded by Rodrigo himself and after the overwhelming positive response from fans and critics, he decided to take other musicians in order to play live with KATALEXIA. The other two members are Dani Moreira on guitars and Mikael De Costa on bass. The fans of DEVOUREMENT, FLESH GRIND, BROKEN HOPE will surely love "Catastrophic Scenes" - brutal Death/Grind with gory lyrics and offensive cover artwork of course (a beheaded corpse). The sound is dense and brutal, there are even some melodic leads here and there, and the voice of Rodrigo is deep as hell! Quite an enjoyable album

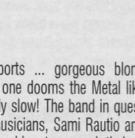


for the Gore maniacs!

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5

## MY SHAMEFUL

*"Of Dust" CD*  
**FIREDOOM Records**  
Finland has some unbeatable exports ... gorgeous blond chicks, Nokia and Doom Metal. No one dooms the Metal like they do. And this one is slow... really slow! The band in question here started as a duo of two musicians, Sami Rautio and Harri Jussila that used a drum machine to record their 3 demos of nocturnal Doom / Death Metal. As Harri left, "Of All The Wrong Things", their first album was made entirely by the only remaining original member. The second release of the band "...of Dust" takes MY SHAMEFUL again further away from the band's earlier Death / Doom expression towards funeral paced, soundscape like songs of wanton to give up, of regret, and self-disgust. "I Found Nothing Sacred" has a church-like neo-classical atmosphere. It is the Finnish feeling of coldness and despair that leaks through all the tracks in this album. You can't miss it! The album was made again entirely by Sami. Soon a new drummer joined. Now MY SHAMEFUL is a real band with 4 members, ready to play live and they even have plans to release their third album soon! Pay attention, if they are touring nearby. You will regret, if you miss them!  
Ivailo Tonchev.....8,0



## AVULSED

*"Goresplattered Suicide" CD*  
**METAL AGE Productions**  
Spain + Death Metal = AVULSED - that's my association when we talk about extreme music and the land of Real Madrid. The most infamous Spanish extreme band released its consecutive dose of first-class brutality. I can say just one thing - "Goresplattered Suicide" is one perfect album from the beginning to the end! Starting with the brutal "Goresplattered Suicide", through the more atmospheric "Fifth Injected" and the 10 seconds grinder "Infernal Haemorrhoids", till the crushing final with a brutal Death version of the eternal Metal anthem "Ace of Spades", it's all like one solid piece of brutality. The drumming, the groovy riffs and the unique voice of Dave Rotten are all 100% Death Metal! In this world of boring I-play-faster-than-you-do bands AVULSED are like fresh water for the dying of thirst! You won't find lightning speed, there's no inhuman technique - this CD is just Death Metal the way it sounds best! Don't miss one of the greatest Death Metal records for the year!  
Tsvetan Rachev.....10!



## KINGDOM OF GLORY VOL. 1

*Compilation CD*  
**ENCLAVE Records**  
This Portuguese label has devoted its activities to supporting and promoting totally unknown Metal acts that haven't been signed to anyone else. What should be mentioned is that it is a pretty good selection of some Speed / Heavy Metal acts from all over the globe. Bands like TOXIC VIRGIN (silly name, but a great song), SHINJUKU CACTUS (strange punk fuelled Heavy Metal from Japan), 7th CIRCLE (I really like their track, really nice female vocals), RATPACK (nice Hard Rock) and all the others deserve a bit of your time... HEARTSCORE is another band that has just attracted me. Well, Heavy Metal isn't dead and this release by Enclave... 17 bands, 6 countries within 77 minutes, is a perfect example how should compilations be made! I really hope that all these bands will get publishers immediately. They simply deserve that, as I bet some of them are THE future in the Metal scene. Trust me.  
Ivailo Tonchev.....7,5

## HUMAN MINCER

*"Devoured Flesh" CD*  
**XTEEM MUSIC**  
Thank to Dave Rotten and his Xtrem Music, the world has the chance to hear some of Spain's most qualitative extreme bands with HUMAN MINCER being one of them. "Devoured Flesh" is the follow-up to the debut CD of the band "Embryonized" and offers brutal Death/Grind in the already overused US style. Think about GORGASM, DISGORGE, some SUFFOCATION and CRYPTOPSY maybe and you'll get the picture - fierce vocals, heavy riffs and blasting drumming. The sound is on a high level, the cover artwork is good though the motive is being used too much nowadays (Jesus Christ tormented by demons again? Boring!). Anyway HUMAN MINCER are a good choice for the collection of every Death Metal fan.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5



## LOS LOS

*"Viva Los Los" CD*  
**DRAKKAR**  
I took the CD, opened the case, played the first song and I was ready to stop it. Hahaha, why did you kill THIS song? "Vamos Ala Playa" is one of the most cheerful euro-disco songs ever made. Making a Stoner / Industrial cover of it

should be listed as one of the deadly sins. Ha-ha-ha-ha, they didn't hesitate to cover some classics like "The Ketchup Song" or "Macarena". Thirteen tracks of Stoner / Industrial Metal, with parts that remind me of acts like RAMMSTEIN. Actually, the rumours say it is a project of some Germans that live / lived in Mexico and they created a loooong background story and to make it short, it should be funny, but it is not... At least, it didn't work for me. If you like the above-mentioned band, that may have some appeal for you. Of course, it is less main-stream and more in the Sludge / Stoner area. It makes a good listen, but the second spinning leaves you dry, as you have heard it all before. I kind of like the band, but I guess that ideologically / aesthetically they did it all wrong.  
Ivailo Tonchev.....5,0

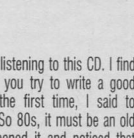
## HATE ETERNAL

*"I, Monarch" CD*  
**ERACHE**  
HATE ETERNAL has always been a supergroup in the Death Metal Underground featuring in its line-up Erik Rutan (RIPPING CORPSE, MORBID ANGEL) and the extraordinary drummer Derek Roddy (NILE, MALEVOLENT CREATION...). "I, Monarch" is the third full-length effort of the band and if you've heard the previous two records you'll know what to expect from this one too. There are 10 songs of hellish fast and intense Death Metal, Derek's drumming is faultless once again and the typical harsh riffs of Erik Rutan make "I, Monarch" very strong Death Metal record. The fans of HATE ETERNAL won't be disappointed for sure!  
Tsvetan Rachev.....8,0



## PITCH BLACK

*"Thrash Killing Machine" CD*  
**RECITAL Records**  
I was reading the info-sheets, while listening to this CD. I find info sheets extremely useful, when you try to write a good review. So, while spinning it for the first time, I said to myself... "Oh, boy, it sounds good! So 80s, it must be an old band!" I took the press-release, opened it and noticed that their history began in 2004. Hm, I was perplexed, but that didn't last long, as I found it was actually 1995. It was just the press-sheets, stitched the wrong way. I love this band. It is just my cup of Thrash Metal, made in the 80's way - simple, but really razor-edged. Think of the sound of TESTAMENT, the early METALLICA, hardened with some of the 90's Death Metal rhythms. It's really a pity that these Portuguese guys delayed this debut album for 10 years. I don't know why it took so long, but it was well-worth the wait.  
Ivailo Tonchev.....8,0



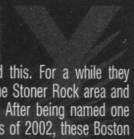
## SOILENT GREEN

*"Confrontation" CD*  
**RELAPSE**  
Finally after more than 3 years of waiting, the New Orleans' Metal combo SOILENT GREEN are back with a new record. The music is still the known from their previous albums schizophrenic mixture of Sludge-Metal sound (think about CROWBAR or EYEHATEGOD), grinding attacks and Hard Core breakdowns. No wonder since the line-up features such suspects as Ben Falgout from GOATWHORE on vocals, the guitarist Brian Patton from EYEHATEGOD and CROWBAR's drummer Tommy Buckley. "Confrontation" is recorded by Eric Rutan (HATE ETERNAL) in Tampa, Florida which is a guarantee for powerful and clean sound. SOILENT GREEN will appeal to anyone who's into the modern US extreme music.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....8,0



## WATCHMAKER

*"Kill. Fucking. Everyone" CD*  
**ERACHE**  
It is weird that ERACHE released this. For a while they seemed to have more interest in the Stoner Rock area and this one comes a bit of a sudden. After being named one of Terrorizer Magazine's Best Bands of 2002, these Boston lads have delivered 2 full-length albums of maniacally fast Grind Core / Metal. I guess it reminds me very much of the stuff that ERACHE put back in the late 80s: fast, screaming vocals, raw shit, obviously rooted in the 80's Thrash / HC scene... I think they catch a bit of the Japcore sound of bands like CONFUSE or a faster version of GISM. Chaotic, straightforward and sincere, excellent production and a band to look for!  
Ivailo Tonchev.....9,0



## XENOMORPH

*"Necrophilia Mon Amour" CD*  
**UNDER HER BLACK WINGS**  
XENOMORPH offers well played Death Metal with lyrics concerning the nightmares of the concentration camps in World War 2. Unfortunately there's nothing so special about this release - the playing is tight, the vocals are brutal but that special ingredient that makes an album unique is somehow missing. XENOMORPH shows nothing more than an ordinary Death Metal record. And we have plenty of them already!  
Tsvetan Rachev.....6,5



## MORDANT

*"Memento Mori" CD*  
**AGONIA**  
The latest CD of Sweden's MORDANT fell in my mailbox with no further band info attached, but still I did know what to



expect here, as I happen to have their „Suicide Slaughter“ MCD (2002) as well. Those who are yet to hear MORDANT should be prepared for a bunch of attacks stirred by the works of such cult Black Metal acts as VENOM and BULLDOZER! No more, no less. If you're not into bands like that, save your money for the next CRADLE OF FILTH album instead.

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

## SUMMON

„Fallen“ CD

MORIBUND

„Fallen“ is the 6th studio album in the SUMMON discography as yet and barely the second I'm hearing from them, after „And the Blood Runs Black“ (2003). The previous CD from these Americans had left me with very good impressions, so I more or less expected the same from „Fallen“, and my expectations proved to be generously justified! The new material these dudes have come up with is literally meant to make a Russian salad out of anyone totally unprepared for some devastating Thrash / Black / Death Metal! But if you are among those for whom constantly trying their eardrum strength remains a prior hobby, then go for „Fallen“ at any cost! It is also important to note that the first 5000 copies of the album go with a bonus DVD featuring a Dolby Digital 5.1 surround sound mix of the entire release! If I were the Moribund team though, I would have shrunk the number of 5000 to 500. For fans' sake!

Vanya Marinova.....8.0

## 10 YEARS OF OBSCENE EXISTENCE

Compilation CD

OBSCENE

The Czech Republic is well known for its qualitative beer and the great number of Grind Core bands infesting the country. Curby and his Obscene Prods are responsible for showing those bands to the world. Now Curby celebrates ten years of obscenity and this compilation has the past, present and future of Obscene Prod. There are 42 tracks, the first 8 of them being unreleased material from SQUASH BOWELS, INGROWING, EXTREME NOISE TERROR, ABORTION, N.C.C. and CRIPPLE BASTARDS. Tracks 9 to 36 are from different Obscene releases like PHOBIA, ISACARUM, FLESHLESS... The last 6 tracks are some of the oldest Obscene releases - the split of DECOMPOSED / PSYCHOPATIA, MALIGNANT TUMOUR and the debut 7 EP of HERMAPHRODIT. This CD has a lot of valuable material for the Grind Core fans. If you're one of them don't hesitate to lay your hands upon this CD!

Tsvetan Rachev.....8.5

## IUVENES

„Towards Sources of Honour and Pride“ CD

NO COLOURS

Like 2-3 years I had been sent another IUVENES album to do a review of („Riddles of Steel“), and back then I had greeted these Polish guys for sounding like BATHORY so much and thence for keeping The Flame burning, so to speak... Now that Quorthon is among the living no more, I'd rather denigrate anyone drinking from the waters he used to as a wretched copycat. I am certain that the latest IUVENES album will have appealed to many though... the 5 tracks on it are not bereft of morosely majestic ambiances. Then again, being influenced is not like being INSPIRED!

Vanya Marinova.....6.5

## CORPUS CHRISTI

„The Torment Continues“ CD

UNDERCOVER Records

This is not the first time when I'm meeting these Portuguese on the aural level. I remember them with „The Fire God“ (2001) - the album with the great MAYHEM cover. What CORPUS CHRISTI's latest creation should convince you in is that experimenting outside the extreme Black Metal forgery is a thought yet to take a shape in the heads of these dudes! The 9 tracks on „The Torment Continues“ attract the ear with the grim dedication-fuelled fierceness they have been first conceived and then recorded with! Expect nothing but mid 90's ferocious Black Metal served with a topnotch sound quality and totally keyboards-free!

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

## DEMONLORD

„Helltrist“ CD

SOURCE OF DELUGE Records

Definitely I'm not the biggest Power Metal maniac around but DEMONLORD are the first Power band from Hungary I come upon and that grabbed my attention. The clean sound and the excellent production are the first things that make impression. Talking about music ideas there's nothing innovative here, influences from RHAPSODY (the opening track „Quo Vadis“), GAMMA RAY, HAMMERFALL („Ruins in the Dark“) and HALLOWEEN may be heard in all 10 songs. The musicianship is on a high level and the voice of Juracek Balazs is strong and melodic unlike most of the Power singers. DEMONLORD has all the chances to become really big, especially in Germany where Power Metal is an institution itself. Only time will tell how far this Hungarian band can reach.

Tsvetan Rachev.....6.0

## DARKESTRAH

„Embrace of Memory“ CD

NO COLOURS

What we have here is like 50 min of mid 90's influenced Black Metal. With all the extras... from the obscure into through the faster / slower rhythm alterations and keyboard / violin parts to the intense screams reminding of Cadaveria's a bit. In short, the Xmass bag is open, so feel free to take whatever

you might have asked Jack Frost for! I personally liked the drum parts best, for sounding so uncompromisingly impaling! Vanya Marinova.....6.5

## SVARTSYN

„Bloodline“ CD

SOUND RIOT

Now here is something STRAIGHT from the 90s! I mean, all the material on this CD dates since 1997/8 and was remastered in 2005. Otherwise, SVARTSYN (formerly known as CHALICE) hail from Sweden and what their 11 tracks are about is Second Wave Black Metal shining both for its defiantly beligerent atmospheres and decent performances. Check them out, unless you've heard them already!

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

## HOLY-ER THAN THOU 6

Compilation CD

HOLY

Using the popular METALLICA track as a name for this compilation France's Holy Records presents five bands of their roster with two songs each. First are SOULGRIND with two powerful songs of bombastic sympho Death / Black Metal with intriguing female vocals. Next are AM'GASHAN - an interesting project having nothing to do with Metal, this is chillout music with Oriental ethno motives. Metal's back with the two tracks of raging Speed / Thrash of GLOOMY GRIM. Time for some crushing brutal Death Metal with NATRON - the fourth band on this CD. Last are ON THORNS I LAY with two songs of gloomy Doom Metal. You see this is one quite interesting CD with 5 good bands of different styles Underground music.

Tsvetan Rachev.....8.0

## AMMIT

„Hammer of Darkness“ CD

DISPLEASED

This is one of the few releases that I've been most hettically on the watch for ever, and I actually got the opportunity of giving it a listen much earlier than I expected! Well, even if not as obscurely entrancing as „Mass Suicide / Steel Inferno“, „Hammer of Darkness“ does have its own merits, for sounding even more extremel! Looks like the punches of Time have passed some people by and that's it! One can sense the 80s here also by taking a look at the very CD booklet with a layout calling dearest memories of all those do-it-yourself-with-tones-of-dedication fanzines dating from the aforementioned decade... For our readers who are yet to encounter AMMIT I will elucidate that this Chilean act was founded in '91 by the frontier Count Czar Yang and oldschool Black Metal is what it inexorably keeps dealing with!

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

## WEREWOLF

„The Temple of Fullmoon“ CD

NO COLOURS

You wouldn't believe how much this release resembles „The Celtic Winter“! Still, although I'm not into clone bands, I'm almost absolutely sure that „The Temple of Fullmoon“ is not going to be transformed into a dust pot as soon as I finish my review. Actually, the album sounds like an IMPROVED version of the above mentioned GRAVELAND CD: along with the well known dismal, remember-our-glorious-past ambiances, this release offers quite a decent production and that makes the pleasure of sinking back into the 1990s twice bigger!

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

## ROCK SOLDIERS Vol.9

Compilation CD

UGK-DiscoS

This is the ninth part of the „Rock Soldiers“ comp. CD presenting to the world bands from the enormous Brazilian Rock / Metal scene. This time we have 13 groups from Heavy Rock to Grind Core. First are ENTREVERO CARDINAL with two songs of brutal Death Metal reminding of the first records of BRUJERIA. DRAGSTER follows with a piece of crushing Speed / Thrash influenced by the early METALLICA. Third are PERPETUAL HATE with their 80's Thrash music. Next are PREDATORY with Metal sound in the vein of SOULFLY, their singer even sounds like Max Cavalera. Fifth are WINDS OF CREATION with a 6 minute long piece of darkened Death Metal. NEOPHITUS follows offering ordinary Death / Black Metal. After them come the two tracks of SUNROAD - epic Metal in the vein of RHAPSODY. MARCELO ROCKER are next with two pieces of Punk / Rock sung in their native language - Portuguese. HOLINESS CODE offer some oldschool Heavy Metal but the sound isn't good at all. On number 10 are D.W.E. with five songs of intense Crust. Next are CARBONIZED with two songs of old-school Death Metal in the vein of AUTOPSY. Twelfth are CONFINEMENT - two tracks of badly sounding Metal. Last are AKAEI with one piece of Doom / Death Metal with a bad demo sound. „Rock Soldiers“ is a very useful compilation for all who want to know anything more about the Brazilian Rock Scene.

Tsvetan Rachev.....7.0

## NATTEFROST

„Terrorist (Necronaut Pt. 1)“ CD

SEASON OF MIST

If back in 2003 I had written that „Blood and Vomit“ was a hard-to-swallow release, the „Terrorist“ follow-up appears even more relentless then! The new CD from this Norwegian appealed to me from the very beginning, for kicking me in the ass around 15 years back, when the vertiginously pompous keyboard parts and female vocals were yet to become almost obligatory components in the music of most Black Metal bands. Grimly down-stripped, the 13 tracks on „Terrorist“ are meant to drag you 13 steps closer to the putrid Underground labyrinths, and only the Devil knows what the 2nd Necronaut

Chapter is going to be dealing with! Despite of its emphatically hostile atmospheres, NATTEFROST's latest creation proved to be not bereft of some humorous moments... „Eine Kleine Arschmuzik“ did succeed in calling the smile on my face, probably because it made me remember VENOM's „Snots, Shit“ and CARNIVORE's „Jack Daniel's And Pizza“ „lyrical“ deviations.

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

## NAE' BLISS

„Beyond the Light“ CD

NO COLOURS

This is a band that I'm hearing for a first time and, judging from its members' musicianship level, „Beyond the Light“ must be the first full-length from these guys. As you might have guessed from the name of the label that this CD has been released through, it is Black Metal oriented. The 7 tracks, mostly deliberate in rhythm, sound wintrily depressive and the cheap sound quality additionally amplifies that feeling. We have heard this before.

Vanya Marinova.....6.0

## HACRIDE

„Deviant Current Signals“ CD

LISTENABLE

What a smashing release from Listenable Records! HACRIDE are a French band playing extreme Metal influenced by the Swedish monsters MESHUGGAH and the US psychos STRAPPING YOUNG LAD. Nothing unusual here but the band combines easily elements from Jazz and technical Death Metal too. At places it sounds like MR. BUNGLE (hear the crazy sax in „Protect“), sometimes the sound becomes industrial cold („Polarity“) or insanely diverse („This Place“). The playing skills of those guys are enviable, everyone of them is a master of his instrument. The sound is excellent and the listener has no problems hearing what is actually going on with the music. Great album that will appeal to all into non-standard Metal!

Tsvetan Rachev.....9.0

## AGONY

„My Turn To Die“ CD

IFA Records

I can't think of many Doom / Death Metal bands from the Czech Republic, only FORGOTTEN SILENCE comes to mind. Anyway now I have the third full-length CD of AGONY „My Turn To Die“. Their music is dark and emotional enriched with melodic keyboards and female singing. The production is on a good level. The fans of heavy and melodic stuff will love

this band.

Tsvetan Rachev.....7.5

## NECROPHAGIA

„Harvest Ritual Vol. 1“ CD

SEASON OF MIST

I will have to admit that I didn't expect much from NECROPHAGIA's latest offering, as the last album I heard from them („The Divine Art of Torture“) had left me rather disappointed for its ornateness. And that was something that had even made me think that Kiljoy and Co had followed the trends on their turn... To my surprise, „Harvest Ritual Vol. 1“ did appeal to me, for sounding sensibly more austere on the arrangement level, yet more intense and a thousand times obscure! The 10 tracks on NECROPHAGIA's newest CD are again based on the band's unique formula expressed in combining thick, grinding riffs with eerie synth melodies and horror movie samples, against the background of which Kiljoy belches creepy revelations with all the hate of the underworld! What I have additionally noticed was that the influence from the 70's Horror Prog Rockers GOBLIN appears really strong here, and that's something I'm far from surprised by, since I happen to be aware of Kiljoy's fondness of this cult Italian act. Killer return of NECROPHAGIA anyway!

Vanya Marinova.....9.5

## EMPTINESS

„Guilty to Exist“ CD

PAINKILLER

I had heard Belgium's EMPTINESS before, as it was who wrote the review of one of their two demos („Eternal Rising“) several years ago. Back then I had found this young Death / Black act very promising and what I'm hearing from their „Guilty to Exist“ debut only confirms that! What these 17 tracks shine most of all with is the malignant enthusiasm they have been composed and played with, and I could additionally sense that Phorgath, Nerath Daemon (ex-ENTHRONED) and Zykoph have reached an impressively high level in the musicianship field ever since they have started it all in July '98! This, along with the cryptic sound, makes „Guilty to Exist“ sound like one of the wickedest creations in the Death / Black section that I've come across ever!

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

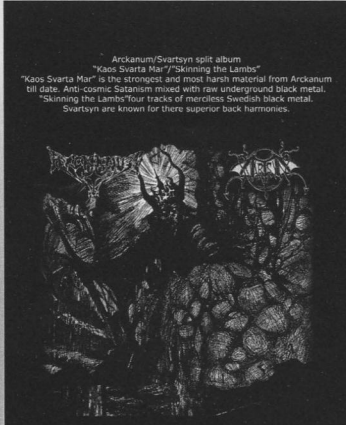
## HEADSPEED

„Blueprint For Desaster“ CD


CASKET MUSIC

The infosheet says that HEADSPEED are explosive Metal band from the „Home of Heavy Metal“ Wolverhampton, England. I've always thought that the home of Heavy Metal

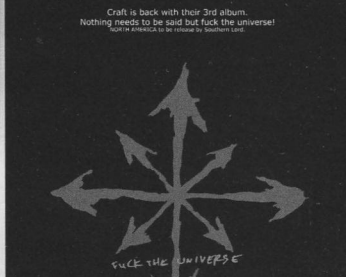
Arkanum/Svartsyn split album  
"Kaos Svarta Mar" / "Skinning the Lambs"  
"Kaos Svarta Mar" is the strongest and most harsh material from Arkanum to date. Anti-epic. Satanic mood with raw underground black metal.  
"Skinning the Lambs" four tracks of merciless Swedish black metal.  
Svartsyn are known for their superior black harmonies.




Arkanum "Arkanum" (The 13 years anniversary album)  
This CD contains materials from the past: 1992-2003. All songs included are unreleased and as a bonus on the CD version, we include the "Gave From Truten" video from 1994.




Craft is back with their 3rd album  
Nothing needs to be said but fuck the universe!  
Craft is back with their 3rd album



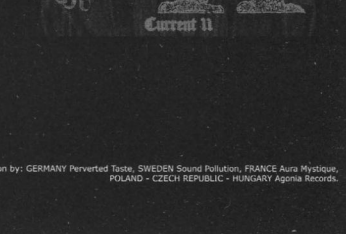
Shannoth "Current 11" Norwegian misanthropic death metal assault  
Musically compared with bands like Behemoth, Deicide and Morbid Angel



FACE THE UNIVERSE



Shannoth "Current 11" Norwegian misanthropic death metal assault  
Musically compared with bands like Behemoth, Deicide and Morbid Angel





was Birmingham but anyway... Although being from England, HEADSPEED sound 100% American, the way most of the bands at Ozzyfest sound. Cheesy choruses, not-so-heavy guitars - the perfect band for MTV's Supercut. There are even two terrible ballads that are aiming the charts I guess. The sound is on a very good level but the whole thing is just too polished and commercial for me.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....6.0

### THEE MALDOROR KOLLEKTIVE

*"A Clockwork Highway" CD*  
CODE 666  
As though it was ages ago when I was sent THEE MALDOROR KOLLEKTIVE's previous "New Era Viral Order" CD to write a review about... The follow-up appears to basically give the listener a clue that these Italians have stepped even further from Metal this time. In other words, if "New Era..." sounded more like Metal / Industrial oriented, "A Clockwork Highway" is meant to swirl you in a stream of synth melodies built on deliberately ponderous beats and ultimately adorned with plenty of eerie movie samples. Atmosphere-wise, the 7 (interconnected) tracks on the latest THEE MALDOROR KOLLEKTIVE creation sound coldly futuristic yet fabulous in some weirdly dismal way that is far from easy to define... Not a bad release, but not a groundbreaker either.  
Vanya Marinova.....7.0

### UTUK XUL

*"The Goat of the Black Possession" CD*  
DISPLEASED  
Columbia's UTUK XUL was formed circa '92 under the name of DIES IRAE first and, after a couple of demo tapes and a split with (the also Columbian) THY ANTICHRIST, "The Goat of the Black Possession" is their debut full-length. Which offers 7 tracks of pure Black / Death Metal played with the vehemence and ferocity that most likely only the Devil himself could adumbrate, in case he decides to ascend one day and see how we've been doing up here! Apart from that, the sound quality is relentlessly dirty and cheap, and this contributes enormously to the more obscure aura of "The Goat of the Black Possession"! Awesome breakthrough, I can't wait to hear from UTUK XUL more!  
Vanya Marinova.....7.5

### BULLETS FOR TEETH

*"Six Sides of Fortune" CD*  
CASSET MUSIC  
What the debut full-length from BULLETS FOR TEETH is basically about is some kind of an in memoriam to the Grunge craze, and that's a current I never felt the spell of. Looks like the BULLETS FOR TEETH do know what they're doing though, so I believe they will gain their own followers soon.  
Vanya Marinova.....6.0

### DATURA

*"Impulse 80" CD*  
COYOTE RECORDS  
Coyote Records is located in Moscow and one of its first releases is the debut CD of Ukrainian grinders DATURA. So far I've heard only Pagan / Black Metal bands from this ex-Soviet country so let's hear what the guys have to offer. Obviously Bob (guitar), Antonsick (guitar / vocals), Dimas (vocals / bass) and Alex (drums) are fans of DEEDS OF FLESH, LIVIDITY and other representatives of US brutal Death Metal - the style of DATURA is just that! The production isn't good, guitars sound weak and lacks power, the drum sound is bad too. The lack of fresh ideas doesn't do any favour to this band either! Maybe next time, with more originality and better sound!  
Tsvetan Rachev.....5.0

### ANGST

*"In Hoc Signo Vincas" CD*  
BLACK ATTACK  
Sweden's ANGST's debut CD definitely sounds not so much entrancing that to call any nostalgic moods for the 90s, but at least the tracks on "In Hoc Signo Vincas" are severe enough that to leave you with the impression that these guys do know what they're doing, namely morose and rapid, totally keyboard / female vox devoid Black Metal! No more, no less.  
Vanya Marinova.....7.0

### SHADOWCUT

*"Pictures Of Death" CD*  
FIREBOX  
SHADOWCUT are representatives of the seemingly endless Finnish Metal Scene. The band was created in 2002 by Omio (vocals / guitars) and the drummer Repe Misanthrope. With the help of bassist M.Havilahti the guys recorded their debut "Pictures of Death" and released it via Firebox Records. The cover artwork makes impression from a first look - a girl with a slit throat lying in her own blood. Anyway SHADOWCUT aren't a gore band, they play mixture of Death Metal with Scandinavian Black Metal elements mainly in the guitars' sound. The fast aggressive parts transmit into mid-tempo gloomy passages in the typical Finnish tradition. Not a bad debut for those Finns!  
Tsvetan Rachev.....7.0

### THE FANTASTIKOL HOLE

*"Mathematikal Oil" CD*  
BASEMENT APES INDUSTRIES  
Splendid. The info sheet attached to this promo turned out

being in French. What I could only realize was that THE FANTASTIKOL HOLE's influences vary from NAPALM DEATH and DISMEMBER through IRON MAIDEN and MOTORHEAD to GODFLESH, THE RESIDENTS, MOUSE ON MARS and tones more. As for "Mathematikal Oil", the CD proved to be one of the (exhaustively) wackiest releases I've ever come across! Imagine schizoprenically sporadic Metal / Core alterations meeting odd Industrial drones and you might get the picture.  
Vanya Marinova.....5.5

### POLYMORPH

*"Disgraceful Supper" CD*  
G.U.C.  
I have never been a big fan of the German Death Metal scene, I've heard a lot of bands but only 1-2 were able to grab my attention for more than a few listenings. POLYMORPH aren't something unique but their music deserves to be heard! Brutal riffs, various rhythm changes and deep death grunts is what you'll find in "Disgraceful Supper". There are only five songs in this MCD actually. POLYMORPH are a good Death Metal band and will appeal to the fans of the genre.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....7.0

### NOCTURNAL BREED

*"The Remasters" CD*  
PAINKILLER  
For certain, being sent this promo was the greatest surprise for a long time! I got to love these Norwegians' music ever since I came across their "Aggressor" release back in '97, and till nowadays NOCTURNAL BREED remain for me the chief 80's Thrash revivers coming from Norway, with AUDIOPAIN and AURA NOR behind them... The promo I was sent actually features barely a one fourth of the 5-CD set released via Belgium's Painkiller last autumn and "The Remasters", as a title, speaks best of what this huge compilation is supposed to contain. Along with such classics as "Frantic Aggressor", "No Retreat...No Surrender", "Evil Dead" (DEATH) or the infamous "Screaming for a Leatherbitch" (this one recorded while the guys rehearsed for their tour), "The Remasters" also includes more than 10 unreleased tracks added due to numerous headbangers' demands of hearing some new NOCTURNAL BREED material. I will probably lose my good sleep until I put my hands on THIS ALL!!!!  
Vanya Marinova.....9.0

### TO/DIE/FOR

*"IV" CD*  
SPINEFARM  
I had my doubts about this. I can sincerely confess that. It turned out though, that I had been extra... cautious. TDF play some quite nice Metal / Goth with a certain 80's vibe hidden inside. Of course, the HIM comparison is unavoidable. The band even shares a member or two with them. But I must say that this has nothing to do with the "soapy" sound of the above-mentioned. Pretty straightforward 80's influenced Goth with a sliiiiiiiiight Metal touch. No doomy passages, no guitar fuzz, but it is heavy at places. Covering one of the greatest U2 tracks was a challenge and they did it! And even added a certain, even more Goth atmosphere, emphasizing to cover "New Year's Day" in the best way possible. So, my regards to TDF to bringing back some memories and doing it out in a fresh way!  
Ivailo Tonchev.....7.0

### RSJ

*"Reflections in B Minor" CD*  
CASSET MUSIC  
Even the fact that the RSJ (formed in 2003) have played with BIOHAZARD or ORANGE GOBLIN could not make me like their debut more! I'm not a HC / Nu Metal fan and that's it! But if you are, check "Reflections in B Minor" out then.  
Vanya Marinova.....5.0

### EXDELIRIUM

*"Transhuman" CD*  
PAINKILLER  
I put the CD, went to make some coffee, had a chat with somebody and when I returned to my bedroom, it was the "Transhuman Technologies" track playing. I immediately started humming it, until I realized I was mistaken. I was humming an early METALLICA track, even the lyrics came to my mind and it was the band's decision to "steal" the riffs and make a song out of two songs of the above mentioned Metal classics. I was more than amused to notice that. Then "Slow Passage" started. Ballads are not a common thing to hear these days. After the first minute I skipped to the next track. And it kept like this until the end of the album. Boring and monotonous METALLICA clone, with a few 90's Thrash elements. I am falling asleep, please... the next one.  
Ivailo Tonchev.....3.0

### BELEF

*"Belef" CD*  
CANDELIGHT  
This CD is meant to be yet another proof that playing fast and furious Black Metal is not necessarily enough! What USA's BELEF have done might appeal to many thought, I personally heard nothing but wrathful drum bashes, riffs where chaos meets monotony and all that crowned with tediously standard vociferations. Not a trace of that unique, dark magnetism the Black Metal genre is supposed to be known (and praised) for!  
Vanya Marinova.....5.0

### KRYOUBURN

*"Enigmatic Existence" CD*  
CONTINENTAL / RAWHEAD  
...from a band that won't stay small much longer". Just a sentence from their press-release. A band, hailing from New Mexico (USA), which "plays with a PANTERA-like fury but their songwriting is so different, that to compare the two is almost impossible". So the press release says. Well, it is so-much like PANTERA, that I can't feel any difference. Nu Metal killed any attempts of originality in so many bands that simply xerox a big band like KORN, SLIPKNOT or PANTERA and try to be as big as their idols are. A perfectly done copy of a major band. Great musicians, great songs, destined to be heard by millions and to be appreciated by them. Not for me, though...  
Ivailo Tonchev.....4.0

### LARUSO

*"Bring It On" CD*  
CASSET MUSIC  
This band from the UK was founded in 2002 and "Bring It On" is their debut. Which calls nothing inside of me: first I've never been an Alternative Rock admirer, and second that the 11 tracks on the CD sound extremely poor and tedious, and make me feel like I haven't slept for ages!  
Vanya Marinova.....4.0

### DEMONBREED

*"Closer To God" CD*  
CASSET  
Mike Hatchett, the vocalist for the band, has one of the angriest vocals I have heard for the writing sessions of Brutalica #11. It is the debut album for the group, hailing from the South coast of England. It seems the album is the logical conclusion of two years of hard work and gigs that got them a legion of loyal fans. If you like 90's Thrash / Death Metal and bands like CANCER, this must be the one for you! I will play it again, I like it.  
Ivailo Tonchev.....6.0

### MINDGRINDER

*"Riot Detonator" CD*  
NOCTURNAL ART  
It was long, long ago when all-star projects were still able to catch my attention... Nowadays I believe that, with quite a few exceptions, gathering equally talented musicians under one banner inevitably leads to the transformation of this banner into something very different from the mop in your kitchen. MINDGRINDER features former, current and session members of ZYLKON, SOURCE OF TIDE, SCUM and NOTODDEN ALL-STARS, and their latest CD, as compared to the "MindTech" debut, sounds sensibly more extreme and not that strictly calculated. The technical Death Metal riffs we know from the previous release are now combined with Thrash elements and the overall atmosphere of "Riot Detonator" least deserves its very title! Also, just like "MindTech", the new CD goes with a video (of track #2, namely "Pathetic Submission").  
Vanya Marinova.....7.5

### ABIGAIL'S MERCY

*"Salvation" CD*  
CASSET  
I was about to disagree with the press release that compared them to SISTERS OF MERCY when I heard "Meaningless", that sounds a bit like "Temple of Love". I loved the Gothic Rock made by the Eldritch's band, but this ain't close at all to what they made years ago. There is a slight touch of Gothic, but also you can spot some 80s Hard / Glam Rock guitar works, some Grunge influences, beautiful and clear female vocals done by Lindsey. It is a pleasant discovery, the tracks keep going on one by one rather smoothly. Keep an eye on them, an interesting band!  
Ivailo Tonchev.....7.0

### VARGSANG

*"Throne Of The Forgotten" CD*  
UNDERCOVER RECORDS  
I guess being a Black Metal anti-interviewee in the 21st century most of all sounds like you have irrevocably missed the early 90's last train merely because you still needed a chair to reach the sink back then... The same goes for the following statement from VARGSANG's sole member. "Throne of the Forgotten" will be the last official release of VARGSANG!!!. Actually, this is barely the second full-length from the man, and the 10 tracks he has come up with turned out to remind of the earlier DARK-THRONE stuff a lot, but still they were not devoid of some VARGSANG ideas at the same time. Pity if the guy was truly born too late...if he had happened to work circa 1995, his statement about his refusal of having whatsoever to do with the "so-called scene" from then on would have certainly led to one or another BM celebrity being not on the pedestal he is on nowadays.  
Vanya Marinova.....7.5

### NANOWAR

*"Other Bands Play, Nanowar Gay!" CD*  
NANOWAR  
One of the most exciting new readings of the 80's Metal, the music that made old critical and grey-haired Metalheads. NANOWAR show how fun can be returned back to Metal. Musically it is a Xerox-like mixture of classical tunes by bands like METALLICA, IRON MAIDEN, MANOWAR. The Xerox copy is colored by hand and wooden pencils, to make it more colorful. Think of some witty lyrics, the unusual sounds of violins, think of some extremely well-composed tracks too! Of course, this album is rather controversial, you either hate it or love it... No third possibility, you can't stay indifferent. I loved it for its

### ANIMUS MORTIS

*"Thresholds Of Insanity" Demo CD*  
DEBEMUR MORI  
The demo CD of ANIMUS MORTIS appeared featuring the band's self-released "Desolated Landscapes" demo since 2005 + new tracks taken from the still unreleased "Nameless Grave" 3-way split. Which makes 6 tracks of rapid, keyboard-devoid Black Metal filled with a great deal of dedication and a frankly underground feeling. Most zealous mud diggers must definitely go for "Thresholds of Insanity" until the copies of it have gone to the wrong hands! Expect a full-length somewhere in 2006...  
Vanya Marinova

### PUMPGUN

*"Demo" CD-R*  
SELF RELEASED  
This is one young band from Germany which nobody knows. PUMPGUN play Metal with various influences... mostly Thrash and Heavy Metal. The sound of the four songs is very promising, so I hope the first album is going to be released soon. They have nice ideas in their music and the tracks are well structured. There are some influences from the music of bands like SLAYER and PANTERA. I wish them good luck in the future! For contacts: lessombrex1@aol.com  
Stefan Stefanov

### V / A

*"10 Ways to Split Thy Skull" Double CD-R*  
TERMINAL DESCENT  
What we have here is like 140 min of utter havoc spread by the following artists: DETRIMENTUM (very good Death / Grind), GODLESS (fierce Death Metal enriched with movie samples), MISERY (versatile Death / Black with awesome leads), ULCERATE (grinding DM), TERMINAL DESCENT (Death / Black), INCURGATE OBLIVION (Death), ASCENDANCY (DM) and RASPATUL (Death Metal). Each band is presented with 3-4 tracks, something that allows the listener to get a brighter picture of any of the above mentioned acts. Additionally, the compilation goes with a CD-ROM containing band photos, tracklists and more... As said in the link added below, this piece of Underground treasure is available for FREE (though, true underground ethics would persuade you to cough up some change to cover postage). Read more here: <http://members.tripod.com/terminaldescent/d25.htm>  
Vanya Marinova

### DISTORTION OF PERCEPTION

*"Project One" Promo CD-R*  
Self Released  
Nah, that's not for me. But if you are into Death / Core stuff, try "Project One" out. Still, I cannot deny that these Greek dudes (with an average age of 21) definitely sound not like newbies in the performance field. The production is on a very good level as well. Contact: [distortionofperception@hotmail.com](mailto:distortionofperception@hotmail.com)  
Vanya Marinova

### RASPATUL

*"Promo 2004 ... The Perfect Realm Of Jharkyanmah" CD-R*  
Self Released  
What I'm hearing from these Singaporeans is far from bad! RASPATUL's promo features 2 tracks offering pure and simple Death Metal (with slight Thrash influences) played with a great deal of skill and dedication. The record quality is very good as well. The time is ripe for a RASPATUL full-length definitely! Contact: [raspatul@hotmail.com](mailto:raspatul@hotmail.com)  
Vanya Marinova

### INNERHELL

*"Like the beasts ... themselves ..." Demo CD-R*  
Self Released  
This one-man project comes from Vratza, Bulgaria. The person behind INNERHELL has the pseudonym Valsidalf. He has created some songs in a melodic Black Metal style, where aggression is not missing. The inhuman vocals sound as if they come from another dimension. There are ideas, but these songs should be re-recorded with a better sound and then they can attract some labels' attention. This is a second demo for INNERHELL and it's another proof that the Bulgarian Underground is alive. For contacts: [valsidalf@abv.bg](mailto:valsidalf@abv.bg)  
Stefan Stefanov

### BESTIAL RAIDS

*"Necrowar Holocaust" Demo CD-R*  
KAMPF RECORDS  
The impression I got after the very first listen was that the name these Polish freaks have chosen for their band just couldn't fit their music better!!! Get ready for wall-breaking Black / Death Metal in the vein of VON, BLASPHEMY or BEHERIT! Hell of an abrupt, I'll make sure I'll contact BESTIAL RAIDS for a possible interview in the future! Contact: [bestialraids@pop.pl](mailto:bestialraids@pop.pl)  
Vanya Marinova

### BESTIAL RAIDS

*"Order of Doom" Demo CD-R*  
KAMPF RECORDS  
"Necrowar Holocaust" happened being the first BESTIAL RAIDS recording that you gave a listen to and found it too raw for your ears? AHHAHAHAHA... have haven't heard "Order of Doom"!!! This demo is the band's second actually and, while listening to it, I'm getting seriously curious about how FURTHER these dudes could get, when it comes to wreaking a Death / Black havoc! I loved Necron's drumming here!  
Vanya Marinova

### IRONY OF CHRIST

*"Words of the Forgotten" Promo CD-R*  
Self Released  
UK's IRONY OF CHRIST were formed in 2001 and since then they have released an EP ("The Eternal War", 2004) and the MCD I'm right now listening to. What I'm hearing is melodic Death Metal standing out for its thick, solid sound and delightful straightforwardness on the construction level. Some Doom passages can be sensed also and they contribute to the bigger diversity of the release itself. In short, "Words of the Forgotten" is meant for offering nothing "revolutionary" on the performance level, it's rather that these guys sound like playing the music they enjoy in their sole purpose. And they do it good! Website: [www.ironofchrist.com](http://www.ironofchrist.com)  
Vanya Marinova



originality. It's a good laugh, after all.  
Ivalio Tonchev.....7.0

#### WORMFOOD

*"France" CD*  
CODE 666  
I still keep great memories of CARNIVAL IN COAL from France, so when I read that the band's mainman Axel Wursthorn was the producer here, I then prepared for hearing something really unconventional! The debut CD of WORMFOOD (also from France) turned out being not the wackiest release I've come across through the years, but still it proved to sound unorthodox enough that to perplex anyone feeling the morbid necessity to give every single riff or drum hit a concrete name and then to pack them all together and place the package in the Metal / Pop / Rock / whatever section. I personally liked the Code 666 definition best (Decadent Post-Metal), as "France" is truly a CD meant to convince you in one thing: Blackness does have its own shades as well!  
Vanya Marinova.....7.5

#### IN TORMENTATA QUIETE

*"Same" CD*  
DAWN OF SADNESS  
It was about time to encounter my "fave" formation type expressed in a line up approaching the number of a football team playing Gothic / Folk Metal with the obligatory screaming / male and female singing alterations! Otherwise, this is the first CD from Italy's ITQ and, while being barely on the 3rd track (the album features 9), I thought of least 5 persons whose birthday parties I could attend with a present I have not given money for at all!  
Vanya Marinova.....3.0

#### WYKED WYTH

*"Nefret" CD*  
DREAMCATCHER  
Talking about Metal and female vocalists, Ipek / WYKED WYTH always comes to my mind. Pretty unusual style of singing, like no other woman has ever done it before. It sounds a bit different than their previous albums, but this is not a bad thing after all. Her voice is more and more the thing that gives a certain opera atmosphere to the raw Death / Thrash Metal, played by the band. Of course, there is some Gothic too, hidden in places. This is their third release, with an ambition to deliver more evil Metal for the almost innocent listeners. Have a try at it!  
Ivalio Tonchev.....7.0

#### DISSIMULATION

*"Prakeikimas" CD*  
LEDO TAKAS  
"Prakeikimas" (Damnation) is the second album from Lithuania's DISSIMULATION (formed in '93), and if one has not read the band's bio first could be easily misled by the dismal, orchestral intro that s/he has just come across yet another sympho-BM act. Ha-ha-a-a! What "Prakeikimas" has for you is stunning Black / Thrash Metal played with a great deal of dedication! What is interesting to mention about "Prakeikimas" in addition is the hardly audible Ambient obscurity which the pauses between the 6 tracks are filled with, thus to contribute to the darker sound of the album itself. As for the production, it is simply topnotch... something that allows to the listener to enjoy the DISSIMULATION members' incredible musicianship without the necessity of overwhelming mute sound barriers before that!  
Vanya Marinova.....9.0

#### KATATONIA

*"The Great Cold Distance" CD*  
PEACEVILLE  
After 6 albums, KATATONIA did what VOIVOD did back in the 90s. This album reminds me very much of the stuff they did with "Angel Rat" or "Nothing Face". Though KATATONIA kept with their Metal sound, this album sounds more like 70s psychedelic stuff... not unlike some PINK FLOYD or similar stuff. This is no longer stuff that Brutalica usually calls "Metal", but who cares. Dark cold sound that makes me dream. The dream is often unexpectedly interrupted by the voice that says "This is a promo CD". This way of making promos should be abolished. Spoils much of the atmosphere, really.  
Ivalio Tonchev.....7.0

#### EVLDOER

*"Terror Audio" CD*  
SCARLET  
Finally something fresher! "Terror Audio" is the first CD from Sweden's EVLDOER and it might offer nothing that we haven't heard before, but still it is always great to jump at the heart a really masterfully done Thrash / Death vortex. Recorded at Berno Studio, these 11 tracks additionally shine for their thick, ponderous sound. You've been missing THE HAUNTED for awhile? Now's the time to start banging your head for Satan AGAIN!  
Vanya Marinova.....8.0

#### ELVARON

*"The Buried Crown" CD*  
MANITOU  
The latest creation of France's ELVARON is actually the 3rd chapter of a story started in '97 with the release of "Magic Battles" and "The Five Shires" since 2000, as the latter album was re-released 4 years later with a bonus CD containing the 20-minute "Call of the Black Dragon" piece. I have heard none of these, but about "The Buried Crown" I can say that it stands out for its nocturnally enigmatic atmospheres as well as for

its unbreakable harmony construction-wise and really virtuosic performances. Still, I do not feel that interested in checking ELVARON's earliest stuff out, as the Progressive Metal genre has never been among my favourite really. But those who are into representatives of the above mentioned style would love this release for certain.  
Vanya Marinova.....7.0

#### ACT OF GROTESQUE

*"Inner Mental Disorder" CD*  
DISTRIBUTOR OF PAIN  
Somebody called them "The Grind Machine". I entirely agree. ACT OF GROTESQUE deliver several tracks of furious Grind Core with not very much of (Death) Metal inside. Do not expect some artsy guitar wanking. It's just the music that gets inside your mind like a bulldozer. Think of BRUJERIA, PUNGENT STENCH or the early 90's NAPALM DEATH. Actually it is only 4 tracks and 4 more introductions and outros, added to make the album last 23.23 minutes and to echo for much longer in your brain. We got this CD a while ago and for the period between issue 10 and 11, the band did many dozens of concerts inside Bulgaria and their outrageous stage appearance attracted many followers. So, I count myself as one of them and I can't wait for their first full-length.  
Ivalio Tonchev.....9.0

#### SUPERCHRIST

*"Heavy Metal Tonight" CD*  
BEASTAL ONSLAUGHT  
This stuff got me. Since the first tracks! First of all, let me tell you about the band. SUPERCHRIST play some Punk influenced 80's Metal or some 80's Metal influenced Punk. Can't decide what is the most correct definition. It is a live album and I think there is some problem with the recording, as the public sounds really "artificial" in places. On the contrary, the music itself has a studio quality, which is quite strange. The band that immediately came to my mind was MOTORHEAD. Add more Punk, more Rock'n'Roll, some Heavy Metal and you get it! I can't get enough of the good old Lemmy gang, yet SUPERCHRIST are not just clones, but good developers. It is where the names of ZEKE, TURBONEGRO and BOLLUDER came to my mind. It is really pleasant and raw music that should be experienced live. And I am already hunting for the previous albums!!  
Ivalio Tonchev.....9.0

#### COBALT

*"War Metal" CD*  
DISPLEASED  
Colorado's two-piece COBALT was devised in 2002 and "War Metal" is their debut full-length. The very title of which, by the way, appears the most perfect clue of what one should be expecting to hear! In other words, the 7 tracks on this CD offer totally outrageous Death / Black Metal expressed in grimly straightforward guitar riffs, apocalyptic drum assaults, decapitating leads and spiteful vociferations. A release meant to either crush the inexperienced or to bring the toughest extremists a gigantic aural orgasm, no middle points!  
Vanya Marinova.....7.5

#### DEVANT

*"Larvaen" CD*  
THE SPEW Records  
Those "Deviants" are from Uppsala, Sweden and "Larvaen" is their debut full-length CD. This is a sonic storm of shredding guitars, galloping drumming, pounding bass tunes and deep guttural vocals. The ten songs in "Larvaen" are quite extreme but catchy at the same time not falling in the trap of the boring brutality. This CD is recorded in EAR Studios in Sweden and mastered by the famous Peter in de Betou and he has done hell of a job! There are guest vocal appearances from members of DEFLESHED and ENEMYVUS. In a time when most of the world consider DARK TRANQUILITY or SOILWORK being the face of Swedish Death Metal, DEVANT are here to show how this brutal blood-thirsty style should be played. They'll never play Ozfest but they'll rip the heart out of every self-respecting Death Metal fan!  
Tsvetan Rachev.....8.5

#### AHRIMAN

*"Kodkin Osveny... Mispain Path" CD*  
TERRANUS Productions  
This is the first time that I'm hearing anything from Hungary's AHRIMAN, although the band turned out to exist since 1992... Anyways, the CD I'm listening to right now is their second, and what it is about is 7 tracks of sympho-Black Metal where the grayness of melancholy meets the unexplored darkness of mystery. Despite of the serious keyboard interference here, "Kodkin Osveny..." sounds remarkably extreme and actually floods in the listener with the triumphant vehemence of a thousand fiends unleashed! Bands that AHRIMAN has shared the stage with so far include VADER, HYPNOS, ORKRIST, ANCIENT CEREMONY, etc.  
Vanya Marinova.....7.5

#### SOULGRIND

*"The Origins Of Paganblood" CD*  
HOLY  
SOULGRIND is a band from France but besides its name, it is far from Grind Core. "The Origin of Paganblood" offers 10 Dark Metal compositions with a bombastic

sound, orchestral arrangements and lyrics dealing with the old Gaelic traditions. The sound is powerful and the singing is separated between the harsh male voice and a beautiful female one. The traditional Metal song structures are enriched with majestic synth sounding and even slight electronic elements. SOULGRIND are quite an original band and deserve the fans' appreciation.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....7.5

#### SLAGMARK

*"Eradication" CD*  
EDGERUNNER MUSIC  
Norway's SLAGMARK were formed in '98 and "Eradication" is their debut CD. According to the file under the info sheet, the release is oldschool Black Metal, but I personally think that these dudes sound so much oldschool as much as it's true that "Crime and Punishment" has been written by Daniel Steel! I'd rather define the 11 tracks on "Eradication" as strictly late 90's influenced, and this that they have no keyboards / female vocals included doesn't make them oldschool! SLAGMARK simply play fast and furious and use face paints.  
Vanya Marinova.....7.0

#### UNSANCTIFIED

*"Demons of My Own Making" CD*  
Self-released  
"Demons of My Own Making" is a 4 song promo CD of the Californian Death Metal band UNSANCTIFIED. The band is striking relentlessly with crushing riffs in the vein of old CANNIBAL CORPSE and DYING FETUS, the sound is powerful and dense, all instruments are easily audible. The voice is fierce and brutal. UNSANCTIFIED has promising future on the Death Metal field if they keep up with the good work.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....7.0

#### NIOTA

*"Cold Red" MCD*  
CASKEIT MUSIC  
Before starting to spin this single, I was feeling rather pessimistic towards Essex' NIOTA, as none of the 3-4 CDs that came from Caskeit to my mailbox (through Chavdar) appealed to me! Still, the 2 tracks on "Cold Red", if not genre-wise, managed to attract me to some extent for the intensity and passion they have been played with! Any POISON THE WELL or DEFTONES fan would enjoy them much more, though.  
Vanya Marinova.....6.5

#### SOLEFALD

*"Red For Fire - An Icelandic Odyssey Part 1" CD*  
SEASON OF MIST  
One of the most innovative and avantgarde Black Metal bands from the Norwegian Scene SOLEFALD is back with a new album. "Red For Fire..." is the first part of a double album, part 2 will be released in the end of 2006 under the title of "Black for Death". This album was written in Reykjavik, Iceland and is dedicated to the pagan heritage of the Northlands. With the very beginning ("Sun I Call") you can hear a violin (played by Sareeta from RAM-ZET), a cello and a saxophone besides the traditional Metal instruments. There's a great variety of vocals, female folk singing and a harsh Black Metal voice. The sound is on a good level. "Red for Fire..." is far from the average Black Metal record, it takes a lot of time to absorb the musical ideas here. SOLEFALD have made another quite interesting album that will appeal to all their fans.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....8.5

#### THE PROVENANCE

*"How Would You Like To Be Spat At" CD*  
SCARLET  
If I should compare THE PROVENANCE's latest CD to their previous "Still at Arms Length" (2003), I would say that these Swedish people not only haven't abandoned their Dark Doom path, but have made it even thornier with inserting plenty of obscure deviations built on fathomless depressions and periodically disappearing and reappearing anger (this expressed brilliantly by Tobias' and Emma's vocal interaction). Also, I'm prone to see some (self) irony in the emphatic versatility of THE PROVENANCE's new tracks: I might be wrong of course, but if man's desperate attempts to take control of situations bread in fields raging far beyond his mental capacities was what the band has tried to portray, then the outcome is really stunning!  
Vanya Marinova.....8.5

#### BEATRIK

*"Requiem Of December" CD*  
AVANTGARDE MUSIC  
"Requiem of December", the second full-length in the BEATRIK discography as yet, turned out offering nearly 50 min of slow, saturnine Doom Metal here and there diversified by faster, mid 90's Black Metal-inspired passages. It is important to note that the sole member of this Italian act Frozen Glare Smara, with his 6 new tracks, sounds far from ambitious to start being taken for the Doom / Black Columbus, and he has followed his heart in creating more depressive atmospheres without the aim at calling whoever's sympathy either. What I could additionally mention in BEATRIK's favor is that in 2004 the band was invited by Germany's Northern Silence Productions to take part in a KATATONIA tribute album.  
Vanya Marinova.....7.5

#### CLITEATER

*"Eat Clit or Die" CD*  
RESTRAIN Records  
I'm a fan of this band from the Netherlands since I had the opportunity to review their debut album "Clit 'Em All". Let's see if the second long player is as charmingly brutal as their previous. First of all, CLITEATER has a second guitar player in their line-up which helps for an even filthier sound. Slow and groovy parts alternate with fast blasting ones and on the top of all that are the deranged growls of Joost. Production-wise the sound is great, so is the artwork representing CLITEATER's version of the Mad Butcher, drawn by Luisma from the Spanish Gore mongers HAEMORRHAGE. "Eat Clit or Die" is obligatory for a good Grind fun album to all maniacs out there.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....8.5

#### MASACRE

*"Total Death" CD*  
XTREME MUSIC  
One of the oldest Death Metal bands from South America...MASACRE are back with their fourth full-length album and the first one sung completely in English. "Total Death" was recorded in Sirio Studio in Bogot? and mastered by Erik Rutan at his own Mana Studios in Florida so the sound is faultless. There are 8 Death Metal grenades here plus a bonus track re-recorded song from their "Requiem" CD released in 1991. The guitars are pretty heavy yet the leads are melodic. Victor Gallego's drumming is tight and provides a solid base for the deep growls of Alex Oquendo. "Total Death" is one solid as hell Death Metal record and every extreme fan should pay attention to the new product of one of the most influential bands ever!  
Tsvetan Rachev.....8.0

#### MATER MONSTIFERA

*"Zrozen z h?chu" CD*  
I.F.A. Records  
The Mothers of All Monsters are from the Czech Republic and their music is atmospheric Black Metal. It sounds a little like DIMMU BORGIR but the lyrics are in Czech. The production is good, technically the instruments are well played but there's nothing original here, some CRADLE OF FILTH-ish riffs, some DIMMU keyboards and... nothing more. Everything is standard here. It's not a bad album but there are many releases like that one. But if you're longing for some melodic Black Metal - MATER MONSTIFERA isn't a bad choice after all.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....6.0

#### HEMNUR

*"Satanic Hellride" CD*  
INFERNUS REXX  
This turned out to be another brainchild of Norway's Frediablo (GORELORD, NECROPHAGIA, GRIMFIST, etc). Here he plays all the instruments except for the keyboards which a certain lady (Heksblod) was entrusted with. Otherwise HEMNUR is Frediablo's own tribute to the 1990's sleazy Black Metal sound and the b/w covers. I guess I should have been glad for being chosen to write the review of "Satanic Hellride", but the truth is that in this CD I found not a trace of the dark feeling supposed to surround those times. The ludicrous lyrics appeared being the ultimate proof that some people have simply spent time in fooling around.  
Vanya Marinova.....6.0

#### CIANIDE

*"Hell's Rebirth" CD*  
DISPLEASED  
Finally the follow-up to the great "Divide And Conquer" of the Chicago Death Metal legend CIANIDE is released. "Hell's Rebirth" was recorded two years ago but problems with their label back then, Merciless Records, lead to putting the release of this CD on ice until now. CIANIDE haven't changed a bit, they still have those dark and dirty oldschool riffs inspired by HELHAMMER and CELTIC FROST. The Doom Metal influences that were typical for the band in the band's early recordings now are almost gone for the groovy Death Metal pace. The sound is raw like on the older Death / Thrash classics, the vocals are filled with spite. There's a hidden track being a smashing cover version of DEATH's "Internal Death". All Death / Thrash maniacs will love that record for sure!  
Tsvetan Rachev.....8.0

#### THEATRES DES VAMPIRES

*"Pleasure and Pain" CD*  
DREAMCELL 11  
I know this Italian act for around 10 years with never to feel interested in checking any of their albums out. "Pleasure and Pain", with its 9 songs (excluding 2 bonus tracks, the one of which a Bruno Kramm remix of the title track), turned out offering quite mediocre Gothic Metal where a female (Sonya Scarlet) is the lead singer and she, by the way, in some moments sounds like she is about to choke on her chalice of blood so one feels the impulse of punching her in the back a bit!  
Vanya Marinova.....5.5

#### MORTUARY DRAPE

*"Buried in Time" CD*  
AVANTGARDE MUSIC



"Buried in Time" is the 6th full-length in the nearly 20-year career of Italy's MORTUARY DRAPE and what it offers is thick, solid Death / Thrash Metal meant for delighting the ear of any extremist in his middle 30s! I will have to admit that this is the first ever album that I'm hearing from these guys, and I'm definitely interested in checking out any of their previous releases!

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

# ZUBROWSKA

"Family Vault" CD  
XTREEM MUSIC

Some of the most innovative and experimental bands that I know come from France. ZUBROWSKA (the name is a combination between a brand of vodka and Ska music) are from Toulouse and present a chaotic style of their own. In case you've listened to their debut CD "One on Six" you'll know what to expect - complex, neurotic songs in the vein of DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN combined with the grinding speed of CEPHALIC CARNAGE and PIG DESTROYER and some modern Thrash riffs. Quite a complex music by all means. The vocals alternate between guttural and screaming. The sound is on a decent level and the instrumental skills of the guys are enviable. In case you like the mix between Death Metal, Metal / Core and Noise - this is your stuff!

Tsvetan Rachev.....8.0

# BRODEQUIN

"Methods of Execution" CD  
UNMATCHED BRUTALITY

Tennessee's BRODEQUIN drown us once again in their hyper-brutal Death Metal sonic storm. With a new drummer John Engman (LUTURGY, FOETOPSY) the band crushed with ten destructive songs. The production is a little bit better than on their previous album "Festival of Death" but still don't expect a clear sound. "Methods of Execution" is just sheer brutality and ultra-speed. The lyrics are again dedicated to all medieval methods of torturing. I guess for the ordinary Metal fan BRODEQUIN will sound like a vacuum-cleaner but the die-hard Death / Grind fans will love this CD!

Tsvetan Rachev.....7.0

# ARCANA

"Le Serpent Rouge" CD  
DISPLEASED

I have heard other ARCANA releases before, but that was in times when I was yet to open my ears for the ethereal mysteriousness that was most Atmospheric / Ambient formations are surrounded by. "Le Serpent Rouge" is the 6th album from this Swedish quartet, and from the very beginning its ritualistic ambiances started flooding in me as landscapes the desolate beauty of which no place on Earth could shine with, and still if there have remained any, that would be only because these corners of the world have somehow been spared from humans' interference! In this CD natural born dreamers and contemplators will probably see another golden chance to step out of the neon fuss, thus to become one with worlds the presence of which can be sensed with the periphery of the soul only, whenever the day opens gates to let night in...

Vanya Marinova.....8.0

# LENG TCHÉ

"The Process Of Elimination" CD  
RELAPSE

The third album of Belgian Grinders LENG TCHÉ marks a new beginning for this band - they have a new, bigger label in the face of Relapse Records and new guitarist (Jan Haeleert who's actually the original one) and a vocalist - Boris The Bastard from SUPPOSITORY replacing the older grunter Isaac. That's a bit of a change so let's see how does it reflect on the LENG TCHÉ's sound. The music is aggressive as it was on the previous two CDs but obviously more mature with some new elements - they have more growy parts this time, some Rock'n'Roll melodies with grinding heaviness in the vein of BLOOD DUSTER. Besides the grunting of Boris and the drummer Sven (vocalist in ABORTED) there are guest appearances from Luc (FUBAR) and Steve McMillan (THEE PLAGUE OF GENTLEMEN). The sense of black humour in the lyrics is present as always. LENG TCHÉ deserves world recognition and with such a good album and serious label supporting them, they may succeed in this!

Tsvetan Rachev.....8.5

# WINTER OF APOCALYPSE

"Solitary Winter Night" CD  
MORIBUND

What this American band amused me with was the almost impudently frank rip-off of the DARKTHRONE logo! So it was natural for me to expect hearing another pathetic band clone. Eventually, WINTER OF APOCALYPSE's debut turned out sounding not so bad. The tracks these guys have created would certainly appeal to anyone who is yet to get enough of well performed, but non-individual material referred to the mid 90's Black Metal sound.

Vanya Marinova.....6.5

# THE SOUNDBYTE

"River of Broken Glass" CD  
AMARANTH Recordings

When I first took quite a cursory look at THE SOUNDBYTE's

bio, something in the structure of the band's very name left me with the impression that I was on the verge of tasting the adolescent anger of another newborn HC act. Instead, THE SOUNDBYTE turned out to be the solo project of Trond Engum...the mastermind of THE 3RD AND THE MORTAL! Anyone aware of this cult Avangarde Doom outfit from Norway would hardly remain very surprised from the course that Trond has taken with his debut (a debut for Amarant too). What I mean is that "River of Broken Glass" does feature ideas taken out of the TIATM spectrum but, on the other hand, the ethereal melancholy which the man's prior band's releases are known for so well, ended up woven in THE SOUNDBYTE's aura too. Here Engum plays all the instruments except for the drums (entrusted to Rune), and Berit Stensland sings in half of the songs on the CD. And, although she has played her role in "River of Broken Glass" quite good, the last mentioned kind of opened an old wound: why the hell did Ann-Mari Edvardsen have to part ways with THE 3RD AND THE MORTAL?!

Vanya Marinova.....8.0

# ABORTED

"The Archaic Abattoir" CD  
LISTENABLE

Belgian ABORTED are already an established and respected name on the Death / Grind Scene with such crushing albums as "Engineering the Dead" and "Goremageddon". Now those CARCASS worshippers release their fourth CD "The Archaic Abattoir". The ten tracks here are a step further in terms of more melodic sound but without sacrificing the brutality of course. The music is technical and tight, being a more complicated version of CARCASS' sound from the beginning of the 90s. "The Archaic Abattoir" was recorded by Tue Madsen (THE HAUNTED, MNEMIC...) which means clear and powerful sound. The cover artwork is done with style, it's much more than just a pile of blood & entrails. ABORTED have done one excellent Gore album that's a must for the Death / Grind maniacs!

Tsvetan Rachev.....9.0

# INFINITED HATE

"Heaven's Termination" CD  
DISPLEASED

This is the second offering of INFINITED HATE - the band featuring in its line-up Aad Kloosterwaard and his wife Rachel, both x-members of SINISTER. Now when SINISTER is resurrected it's doubtful if there will be a third INFINITED HATE CD but let's concentrate on "Heaven's Termination". There are ten songs of furious Death Metal with excellent sound (the album is recorded at Excess Studio in Rotterdam) much better than on the previous album "Revel in Bloodshed". Besides the aggressive fast tracks there are slower parts and more melodic solos. The riffs are powerful, the drumming is outstanding (during this time is Dirk Verbeuren known for his work with ABORTED and SOILWORK). Rachel's grunts are brutal as ever. The album ends with a strong cover version of UNLEASHED's "Before the Creation of Time". "Heaven's Termination" is another very good Dutch Death Metal album and will appeal to all fans of the genre.

Tsvetan Rachev.....7.5

# BARATHRUM

"Anno Aspera 2003 Years after the Bastard's Birth" CD  
SPINEFARM

I learned about BARATHRUM back in 1995 by coming across their "Hailstorm" release (1994), and I remained far from fascinated at the time, even though I had intuitively felt that these guys were meant to offer something totally unconventional in a period when most newcomers on the BM Scene had preferred to go for creating majestic and epicly sorrowful works based on the unlimited use of keyboards or Viking movie samples... BARATHRUM released seven albums since, including the one I'm writing this review of. Eventually, that very CD appealed to me so much that I felt really interested in hearing other BARATHRUM releases as well - what "Anno Aspera..." proved to offer was 10 tracks of utterly severe Black Metal STILL having NOTHING to do with today's grim-and-nekro stuff! Indeed, these Finns sound like they have been detached from the 90's fuss all the time... so unique their style is, and by the freezing hostility of their latest full-length one should understand once and for all that things are NOT going to change here!

Vanya Marinova.....9.0

# DEFACING

"Spitting Savagery" CD  
XTREEM MUSIC

Dave Rotten punishes us again with another dose of relentless brutal Death Metal this time in the form of the Chilean DEFACING. After the demo "The Beginning of Human Cruelty", the band releases its first full-length "Spitting Savagery". After the intro the nightmare begins with unbelievable drumming, speed changes, breaks - total attack! DEFACING reminds of the great CRYPTOPSY for their insane technical playing and to Mexico's DISGORGE for their lyrical approach. Maybe some slower parts in the future won't do any harm since "Spitting Savagery" is a speed storm from beginning till the end. The production is a little messy, the instruments are audible but the sound is chaotic. The album ends with a version of "Phobophile" of CRYPTOPSY of course. The

conclusion is: If you need music that will make you go nuts - DEFACING is what you need!

Tsvetan Rachev.....8.0

# THIS ILLUSION

"Not Just Listening" MCD  
CASSET MUSIC

Right now I'm not just listening, yeah... What I'm busier with is thinking of what to write about this mini album except for defining it as a fast-paced Happy Rock one. Oh, it also features 3 tracks, I'm barely on the second half of the first and I'm feeling like I have 29 more songs to give a listen to! Let's hope I'll be spared from such grill-bands in the future.

Vanya Marinova.....4.0

# RAPTURE

"Silent Stage" CD  
SPINEFARM

After their 2002 release "Songs for the Withering" there was a big silent pause for Finnish RAPTURE. Finally they released their next album "Silent Stage" and on a first listen there aren't many differences between the previous CD and this one. The music is Doom / Death Metal in the vein of KATATONIA or SENTENCED with predominantly clean vocals and occasional grunts here and there. The production is fine and the songs are catchy - hear "24/7" or "Dreaming in Oblivion" for example. The bad news is that "Silent Stage" is a too predictable album made entirely within the frames of the genre, there's nothing unexpected or innovative. Anyway, RAPTURE have created a pleasant and melodic album that will appeal to the fans of Finnish melancholic sound.

Tsvetan Rachev.....7.0

# ISOLE

"Forevermore" CD  
I HATE Records

Although "Forevermore" is barely the debut CD from ISOLE, this Swedish band proved to have been founded over 15 years ago under the name of FORLORN first. Otherwise, their album is fully complied with the Doom Metal sound and what the 7 tracks on it most of all shine with is their plainness and absolute unpretentiousness for offering something never heard before. Then again, I'd rather go for either PARADISE LOST's earlier stuff or any of the UNHOLY / KHANATE releases, whenever I end up in the mood of giving some Doom Metal a listen.

Vanya Marinova.....6.5

# FORGOTTEN TOMB

"Love's Burial Ground" CD  
ADIPOCIERE

Herr Morbid is the mastermind behind this Italian project. After the first album "Songs to Leave" and the "Springtime Depression" in 2003, now it's time for "Love's Burial Ground". FORGOTTEN TOMB's music is a mixture between Doom and Black Metal influenced by the old KATATONIA releases. The atmosphere is cold and nihilistic, the music is solid and powerful but has a depressive, almost suicidal feeling in it. The riffs are melancholic and fit perfectly the dirty screams of Herr Morbid. Most of the material is mid-paced although there are some fast raging moments. Some of the highlights in the album are "Alone" and "House of Nostalgia". "Love's Burial Ground" isn't an easy-to-listen product but the fans of misanthropic Black Metal will definitely like this CD.

Tsvetan Rachev.....8.0

# INFERNAL LEGION

"Your Prayers Mean Nothing" CD  
MORIBUND

Formerly known as EVISCERATE, USA's INFERNAL LEGION were founded in '99, and "Your Prayers Mean Nothing" is their second full-length. Which would certainly please most admirers of inexorably impaling, in-the-name-of-Satan conceived Death Metal. This CD failed in casting its spell on me though... it's merely that, to get to like a Death Metal band, I have to hear something REALLY masterful from them!

Vanya Marinova.....7.0

# CEREMONIAL CASTINGS

"Immortal Black Art" CD  
DARK FOREST Productions

So, here we have one gang, coming from USA. This exactly is a duo, and its two parts are: Lord Serpent... all vocals, guitars, drums; Old Nick... all keys, synths, pianos. These two persons have prepared to us one not bad symphonic Death / Black Metal album with enough speed and brutality inside, which pass into monumental symphonic oratorios. Satan has a finger in the pie here and it can be seen just from the artwork, a deed of the well known Kris Verwimp (MANGEGAM, ABSU...). Amongst the songs in "Immortal Black Art" you can find a cover of the beasts DARKTHRONE... "Transylvanian Hunger"!

Stefan Stefanov.....6.5

# DECEIVER

"Riding with the Reaper" CD  
IRON FIST Productions

DECEIVER were founded by former MAZE of TORMENT members in 2004. "Riding with the Reaper" is their first CD, and what it's obviously meant to seduce you of is diving into the Metal bog and reaching the 80s - a decade when bands like VENOM, MERCYFUL FATE, METALLICA or JUDAS PRIEST were on the top of their creativity. These bands are also mentioned in the DECEIVER inspiration list, and what I have to say is that I'd rather play either "Welcome to Hell" or "Don't Break the Oath", whenever I feel nostalgic for the 80s. Being inspired is not like being influenced and the Deceivers, regardless of their undeniable musical skills, are not inspired!

Vanya Marinova.....6.5

# F.O.B.

"Default" CD  
I.F.A Records

The second album of FOB comes right in time for some Death Metal with a difference. I had many copies of their first CD in my distribution and they were sold out quickly, that actually speaks for itself. There are thousands of bands worldwide that define Death Metal as their style. And only a few hundred actually succeed to sound fresh and innovative. "Default", their second album, makes no difference. Thrash / Death Metal with some interesting influences. Stuff like progressive Death Metal and fast Grind attacks also appear here. You can even hear traces of their past as a Doom Metal band many years ago. I wish success to my Czech friends with this album!

Ivailo Tonchev.....9.0

# BLOOD RITUAL

"Black Grimoire" CD  
MORIBUND

This band from Seattle was formed in '91 by Bishop (a member of the Church of Satan) and was officially born 1 year later. Soon after that BLOOD RITUAL played several local gigs which, according to the info sheet, were surrounded by such eerie occurrences as mysterious car explosions, falls and breaks of people's crucifixes and Lady Madness' flirtations with some listeners' souls, as a result of which these individuals started hearing voices... The further read of the BLOOD RITUAL bio also informed me that a group of occultists ended up with a melted tape machine after they tried to give recordings of the band a listen! Knock on wood, my stereo with the "Black Grimoire" CD inside still works. This is actually BLOOD RITUAL's second full-length, and what it offers is 9 tracks of utterly ominous, very well performed Death Metal. Deadbangers must go for it!

Vanya Marinova.....8.0

# KATAXU

"Hunger Of Elements" CD  
SUPERNAL MUSIC

It really exists. Electronic Aryan Black Metal, totally kosher and pure, they don't even have a web-site and no interviews are given. I think that there is something really wrong with these guys, too anti-social to make a real band and too intelligent to stay ordinary boneheads. Honestly, I like the music. Dark, orchestral and electronic, with fast Metal attacks and that gloomy feeling that is so typical for Black Metal. But the moment I noticed that they limit their music to "only for the Warriors Creating The Superman's Empire!!!", I knew it won't be my "pick-up" for the issue. Well, music is the only universal language between people and it unites, it shouldn't divide.

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**INNER FIRE**  
*"In Blood We Trust" CD*  
**PAINKILLER**  
 Everything starts in the mid 90s in a small Romanian town, when Alin forms GOTHIC as a result of his influence from the earlier P. LOST and TIAMAT albums. Years later the man moves to Belgium, where he eventually succeeds in finding decent musicians (former MYSTICA / DRAGDOWN / SALMONELLOSE members) who to work with. In the meantime, GOTHIC becomes INNER FIRE, due to the already existing Death / Grinders GOTHIC from the Cause. Thus, a work on the full-length album begins, and the outcome is the nearly 31-minute long "In Blood We Trust". An album that will most certainly please any average Dark Metal fan. I personally, despite of the INNER FIRE members' decent musicianship, could find nothing that to intrigue me really. First I have never been into bands like this and second that these 6 tracks appeared to sound rather predictable to me.  
 Vanya Marinova.....6.0

**IRATE ARCHITECT**  
*"Born Blood Portrait" CD*  
**THIRD ALLIANCE Records**  
 It is just 4 tracks and about 10 minutes of solid Grind Core, without breaks and trendy influences. The press release says some nice things about the band, yet 4 tracks are not enough for me. I don't find any of these "innovative", it's the same old patterns, I've heard for hundreds of reviews here. But at least this stuff sounds well done and tight. As the real Grind Core should be.  
 Ivailo Tonchev.....5.0

**MYSTICA**  
*"Human Mutants" CD*  
**PAINKILLER**  
 The second album in the discography of MYSTICA (formed in '99) and the first I'm hearing from them ever. Judging from what I'm listening to right now, I'm feeling like I'd be very thankful if these Belgians' potential 3rd CD drops in somebody else's mailbox and not mine! MYSTICA are far from bad musicians, but the 9 Black / Death tracks they have come up with proved to sound utterly non-inspirational. Bands that the guys have played live with (both in Belgium and abroad) are as follows: BENEDICTION, GOD DETHROWNED, MARDUK, IMMORTAL, HYPNOS, SINISTER, BAL-SAGOTH, CANNIBAL CORPSE, etc.  
 Vanya Marinova.....6.0

**ALL ELSE FAILED**  
*"This Never Happened" CD*  
**RESTRANT Records**  
 It starts like Grind Core, keeps further on as some neo-Metal, "Waterlogged" is some really soapy EMO. And then it turns into some screamo Metal. I feel the guys in the band are like good cooks. They took everything that was hip at the time they decided to record, invested some money in the studio and did it. This is "pizza Metal" that has everything on it, laid over some dough that basically tastes like nothing, without all the ingredients. But they have put too much of everything and it didn't bake properly. Yes, all else failed.  
 Ivailo Tonchev.....4.0

**THE CREST**  
*"Vain City Chronicles" CD*  
**SEASON OF MIST**  
 A European tour with MORTIUS, a collaboration with the producer of TRISTANIA, THE SINS OF THY BELOVED and, well, CARPATHIAN FOREST, the hiring of the lead singer Nell as a Liv Kristine substitute in THEATRE OF TRAGEDY was information unpromising enough that to make me step to the "Vain City Chronicles" promo with a huge yawn ... so sure of my encounter with yet another sentimentally effusive Goth horde I was... Eventually, Norway's THE CREST proved to sound like one of those bands that one sooner or later resorts to, just for the pure and simple relaxation. Generally dark Pop / Rock oriented, the 11 tracks on THE CREST's second full-length shine most of all with their caress-like melancholy structured by catchy guitar riffs, softened drumming and, last but not least, Nell's dulcet and calming vocals.  
 Vanya Marinova.....7.0

**THE OLD DEAD TREE**  
*"The Perpetual Motion" CD*  
**SEASON OF MIST**  
 Their first album "The Nameless Decease" cause a little storm in the Underground back in 2003 and gave this French band the chance to be a supportive act for KATATONIA, OPEETH and PARADISE LOST. In the beginning of 2005 THE OLD DEAD TREE entered Stage One Studio with producer Anders Classen to record their second CD - "The Perpetual Motion". This album starts with the ANATHEMA-like "Out of Breath". First thing that makes impression here is the great vocal range of Manuel Munoz, he switches easily from melancholic singing to harsh roars. The riffs are melodic yet at the same time heavy. All songs are filled with melancholy and aggression. The end of the CD comes with the beautiful instrumental "This is No Farewell". THE OLD DEAD TREE has the potential to become really big band like KATATONIA or ANATHEMA just to name a few, but only Time will tell if they're able for achieving that.  
 Tsvetan Rachev.....8.5

**FELDGRAU**  
*"Mechanized Misanthropy" CD*  
**AGONIA**  
 Even if FELDGRAU hadn't turned out to be the youngest brainchild of Pete Helmkamp (ORDER FROM CHAOS, ANGEL-CORPSE, TERROR ORGAN, REVENGE), his wife Vhex (TERROR ORGAN) and IMMOLATION'S Destruct, their "Mechanized Misanthropy" debut would have hardly sounded less impacting in my ears! What this release has for you is 9 tracks where utterly primitive Black / Death riffs meet cold Industrial drones and movie samples in various languages (including Serbian), and the end result is ambiances so apocalyptically severe that one, while listening to this CD, truly gets back in the last century's 40s, to find himself cold and shaking on the very stormfront beneath leaden skies, with the hissing whispers of Death in his ears... In the meantime, just out of curiosity, I checked out their "Mechanized Misanthropy" reviews on the internet and most of them turned out being quite negative towards what Helmkamp, Vhex and Destruct came up with. That was something I could understand anyway, as FELDGRAU sound inexpressibly primitive indeed, but the atmospheres their album emits guarantee you a really unforgettable experience!  
 Vanya Marinova.....8.0

**ENDSTILLE**  
*"Navigator" CD*  
**TWILIGHT**  
 You can rarely hear such evil, aggressive and extreme Black Metal. The fourth album of ENDSTILLE sounds cold and sterile and the scraping melodies get into your head like a virus. A high-circulating extremism. The brood that muddled this mess are: Ibils ... vocals, Cruor ... bass, L. Wachfels ... guitar, Mayhemic Destructor ... drums. These four know well how to play fast and just drive me mad! This CD has to be in the collection of each die-hard fan.  
 Stefan Stefanov.....7.5

**DAWN OF RELIC**  
*"Night on Earth" CD*  
**SEASON OF MIST**  
 "Night on Earth" is the third full-length in the discography of Finland's DAWN OF RELIC as yet, and the first ever that I'm hearing from them. What eventually happened was that I ended up literally bombarded with tight yet solid and very well performed melodic Death Metal! Apart from that, the 8 tracks on this release proved to sound entrancingly mysterious, and that additionally contributed to the appearance of my regret that "Night on Earth" lasted barely 30 minutes!  
 Vanya Marinova.....8.0

**BERSERK**  
*"Return Of The Ancient Laws" CD*  
**OAKEN SHIELD**  
 The cover of this CD impressed me still from first sight ... like it's a photograph from an archaeological expedition. Just before the release of their third full-length opus, the pagan warriors from BERSERK decided to re-release their demo "Return Of The Ancient Laws" (recorded in '99) plus four concert tracks from their concerts in Madrid and Bilbao. The five Spanish get their knife into the poor Christian souls under the form of their Black Metal convinces. The last concert song ("Lost Wisdom") is a cover version of BURZUM.  
 Stefan Stefanov.....5.5

**CRIONICS**  
*"Armageddon's Evolution" CD*  
**CANDLELIGHT**  
 In the first moment I couldn't help laughing when I saw the "Armageddon's Evolution" data on the display of my CD player: 66 tracks with a total duration of 66:06 minutes! The second full-length from Poland's CRIONICS turned out featuring 11 tracks, and what I heard from them was far from bad Black / Death Metal, where the insertion of keyboard melodies was absolutely proper and had nothing to do with pathetic gap filling instead. Even the "Carmina Burana" accent on the 9th song proved to sound unbelievably non-commercial! Otherwise, CRIONICS exist since '97 and bands they have shared the stage with as yet include BEHEMOTH, SAMAEAL, OPEETH, MARDUK, etc.  
 Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**ANTIGAMA**  
*"Armageddon" CD*  
**SELFMADEGOD**  
 The third full-length of the Polish band, that I have known (until now) only by their split with JAN AG. Well, 9 tracks of violent Grind / Death metal. Actually, some of the tracks are Electronic Noise, like the last one, which lasts over 9 minutes. I think I expected more from these lads. The SIEKIERA covers were awesome, but this album lacks something. Call it "inspiration", or maybe the stuff went too wild and original and I can't really get into it? For sure, this stuff is wild and if you are a Grind Core maniac, this one goes for you... If you are not, you'd better play the split with JAN AG...  
 Ivailo Tonchev.....6.0

**SATANIC WARMASTER**  
*"Carleian Satanist Madness" CD*  
**NO COLOURS**  
 Those who are already familiar with this one-soul act from Finland will know what to expect here, but if you who is reading these lines are yet to hear SATANIC WARMASTER and happen to be into more modern and polished stuff at the same time, better stop reading. "Carleian Satanist Madness", just like S. T. Wervolf's previous releases, is firmly dedicated to

the early 90's Black Metal sleazy sound and morose atmospheres. What makes this CD sound so fascinating in my ears is not so much its very contents (the 1990's mourners and admirers became too many in the last 5 years), as is the strong feeling that these 8 tracks were played neither for money nor glory! Instead, "Carleian Satanist Madness" appears a grim reminder of the existence of individuals for whom Black Metal IS a way of life!  
 Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**ADRAMELECH**  
*"Terror of Thousand Faces" CD*  
**XTRMUSIC**  
 ADRAMELECH is one of the oldest Death Metal bands from Finland existing since the end of the 80's. After two albums on Dave Rotten's Repulse Records, the band strikes again with "Terror of Thousand Faces" - their third CD. Don't expect anything but a good oldschool Death Metal with the dirty sound well known from the beginning of the 90's. ADRAMELECH's sound is a mix between older MORBID ANGEL and the dark sound of IMMOLATION. Nothing original here but ADRAMELECH are one of those bands that keep the oldschool spirit alive and they credit for that.  
 Tsvetan Rachev.....7.0

**PEST**  
*"In Total Contempt" CD*  
**NO COLOURS**  
 This album would never beat "Panzerfaust" for certain, but resurrects the memory of this blood freezing release SO VIVIDLY that it's hard to believe... What saves Sweden's PEST from falling into the wretched copycats' cesspool though is the boundless dedication they have played their newest material with, one can sense it by the poisonous hatred that "In Total Contempt" emits! BLACK METAL!!!!!!  
 Vanya Marinova.....8.5

**BLACK ANGEL**  
*"From the Darkness" CD*  
**KETZER**  
 Although this is the first official full-length of BLACK ANGEL, that Peruvian band turned out existing since... 1988. Otherwise, the CD I'm listening to right now offers 9 Black / Death Metal tracks, where one can feel the bursting clash against the 80's impulsiveness and the early 90's freezing reticence. This wrapped in the cryptic obscurity that ONLY a South American band could create (refer to the vibes of either MYSTIFIER's "Goetia" or TYPHON's "Unholy Trilogy" and you might eventually twig what I'm talking about! What I only didn't like here was the vocals, for sounding like shrieks from a 100-year old hag to a great extent. Very strong release though!  
 Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**NAILED**  
*"A Pure World Is A Dead World" CD*  
**CASKET MUSIC**  
 NAILED is one young band coming from the United Kingdom. Exactly they come from West Yorkshire from where come names like MY DYING BRIDE, ANATHEMA, CRADLE OF FILTH... However, here the goal is to play barbarian brutal Death Metal without any limits - fast and chaotic at some moments, with three throats roaring and violently grunting. There's the rub that there surely are scores of bands around the world which sound this way. So you definitely won't find a different method of composing in the structures of the songs. But some people would like this.  
 Stefan Stefanov.....5.0

**FILII NIGRANTUM INFERNALIUM**  
*"Fellatrix Discordia Pantokrator" MCD*  
**PROCON MEDIA**  
 Don't pray for mercy to the debut album of these Portuguese. This is a band with more than 10 years of existence and too little releases in their active. This quartet deserves admission for the music which it had created. Good hybrid between Necro Rock'n'Roll (ha-ha, I like this definition!) and oldschool Black / Thrash Metal. The sick and tortured screams of BTHZR dominate all and just go off your head with their demonic madness! The lyrics are for occult and satanic themes. I'm already a fan of FILII NIGRANTUM INFERNALIUM... Welcome the Children of Hellish Darkness!  
 Stefan Stefanov.....8.0

**SHAAIRIMOTH**  
*"Current 11" CD*  
**CARNAL Records**  
 Norway's SHAAIRIMOTH was set up in 2004 by former ANTARCTICA members and soon after that Haakon Forwald (DISCIPLIN, ex-MYRKSOG) joined. What these dudes have eventually come up with is 10 tracks of outrageous yet morosely thick Death Metal. A genre I have never been a huge admirer of on the whole, but still I can not neglect the fact that the guys are remarkably skilled musicians! Most deadbangers will have enjoyed "Current 11" for certain!  
 Vanya Marinova.....7.0

**ABUSED MAJESTY**  
*"Serpenthine" CD*  
**ADIPOCERE**  
 ABUSED MAJESTY are one of the representatives of the new generation of extreme Polish bands. Existing since October 1998, they release their debut disc just now. The five long-

**GORYPTIC**  
*"Demo 2006 CD-R"*  
**Self Released**  
 This French Brutal Death Metal band has been created in 2005 - actually the guys existed since 2001 under the name of HERESY but decided to change it to GORYPTIC because of coexistence of several bands called HERESY. The same line, the same kind of music, just a little change of the name. This Demo CD-R contains two professionally recorded tracks, damn heavy US brutal Death Metal, nothing new under the sun, but very well done. The tracks are very technical and varied, alternating double-bass drums passages with furious Grind attacks. I think the band is almost ready for their debut album but of course they need a label to release it. Interested people could write to: [Goryptic@wanadoo.fr](mailto:Goryptic@wanadoo.fr)  
 Chavdar Tzachkov

**HELLGIUM METAL**  
*"From the Belgian Underground Part II" Compilation CD-R*  
**Self Released**  
 It was me again who reviewed the first part of the HELLGIUM METAL compilation, and what I can remember right now is that in my ears at least, the CD appeared being a great guide throughout Belgium's Underground labyrinths. Part II is not an exception at that point... by acquiring it (for free) one automatically gets the chance to meet 18 bands on the aural level, namely THURISAZ (sympho Black / Death), BATTALION (thick Death Metal), HISTOIRE NOIRE (raw Black), ILL FARES THE LAND (rapid, well played Death Metal), DRONCAEROT (early 90's influenced BM), LENG TCH'E (verging Death / Gore), FLESHMOUL (decent Death / Thrash), GORATH (Black), THEUDHO (Black / Doom), HEIMAT (ferocious BM), LEPTOTRCHA (Death / Grind), GRIMFAUG (BM), GRINNING GHOU (THRAASH!!!), WAPENSRAAK & DRINKGELAG (Black Metal), HEADMEAT (Death), INSANITY REIGNS SUPREME (Doom / Death) and HERFST (Black / Death) and GUTMOOR (vehement BM). The bands I liked best were GRINNING GHOU, BATTALION, ILL FARES THE LAND, WAPENSRAAK & DRINKGELAG, HEADMEAT and HEIMAT.  
 Contact: [belzebub\\_johan@hotmail.com](mailto:belzebub_johan@hotmail.com)  
 Vanya Marinova

**V / A**  
*"Metal Warrior Compilation Part 3" CD-R*  
**METAL ZONE DISTRO**  
 Yet another compilation intended for throwing some light on the darkest Underground corners. In their 3rd part Malaysia's Metal Zone Distro have joined 20 songs from 20 bands hailing from various parts of the world (Indonesia, the Czech Republic, Singapore, France, Greece, Hungary...). Some will probably find a lot of familiar names here, whereas others might see in "Metal Warrior Compilation Part 3" their golden chance to meet bands they have never heard of... Here is the participants' list anyway: AGE OF AGONY (Death Metal), INHUMATE (Death / Grind), ROTTING FLESH (mystic sympho Death), FILSOFOF (melodic Black / Death), SIGN OF VOOR (sympho Black / Death), ANTACID (not bad Black'n'Roll), CATACOMB (Death / Grind), ARGON (D / G), CORDIAC NECROPSY (Grind), KOMA (GC), LACERATE (D / G), VRYKOLAKAS (GC), YONIA (Atmospheric), NECROPIA (Brutal Death Metal with great vocals), ZEBIRUN (awesome Thrash / Death), TORCH (Black / Death), TUSSOCK (D / G), NOIROTTASSYA (Death / Doom) and... NAPALMED, whose presence turned out being expressed in noises lasting for less than a minute... most likely a prelude to a GC vortex. Quite an informative compilation after all, and the sound quality of the tracks included is on a decent level. A mystery remains the mention of Sweden's Deathbangers INSISION in the contacts list, since I saw no track from them on the CD... Perhaps we'll see them in "Metal Warrior Compilation Part 4"? Anyway, if you would like to see YOUR band there, use the following address: Metal Zone Distro, No 24 Jalan Parembar, Taman Samudera, 05050 Alor Star, Kedah, Malaysia  
 Vanya Marinova

**DECAPITY**  
*"Skin of Redemption" EP*  
**Self Released**  
 The UK DECAPITY was born in 2002 under the name of VENGEANCE but later the guys decided to change it to DECAPITY. We received this EP on CD-R but I guess it is released on 7" vinyl or as a MCD. It includes 5 tracks, a mix between Bay Area Thrash and European Death Metal. Strong SLAYER riffs, Thrashy rhythm and at some places Thrash vocals, at others candid Death growls. DECAPITY is also a very strong live band, they have numerous live appearances in different clubs in UK with some known acts such as VOMITORY, EMINENCE, DETRIMENTUM, BLOOD DUSTER, etc. "Skin of Redemption" is a promising material, I guess they soon will sign a deal. What they need more recognition, good promotion and of course... good luck. For more info about DECAPITY write to: [info@decapity.co.uk](mailto:info@decapity.co.uk)  
 Chavdar Tzachkov

**GATE OF DARKNESS**  
*"Elimus" Demo CD-R*  
**Self Released**  
 What first attracts the eye here is the front cover itself representing an infant in her deepest sleep... As for the music, these Hungarians proved to offer around 18 min of mid-tempo Black / Death Metal garnished with haunting keyboard passages. The overall atmosphere is notable for its nocturnal mysteriousness. Most of the lyrics are in the band members' native language. Website: <http://gateofdarkness.fw.hu>  
 Vanya Marinova

**CARNAL RAPTURE**  
*"Promo 2004 CD-R"*  
**Self Released**  
 Blehh, Metal / Core again! Very well played, by the way, one can sense it by the remarkably versatile track constructions, but this JUST makes NO sense since I'm not into bands like that at all! But if you are, make sure you'll check these Italians out! Contacts: [esseti@inwind.it](mailto:esseti@inwind.it) or [cymbal@ibero.it](mailto:cymbal@ibero.it)  
 Vanya Marinova



haired guys show us their skills in the Black / Death Metal fields. Their music is fast, technical and it has triple vocal attacks. However their uniqueness is gone... "Serpenthrone" is a conceptual work. Lyrics were inspired by the oldest chronicles of the tribe of Regins ... Lechits (Scythians of Regia) enclosed in "The Tome of Ashes".  
Stefan Stefanov.....7.0

**SADIZITK IMPALER**  
"Sadizitk Syonan-to Supremacy"  
CD  
KETZER  
As I can get from the info sheet, this is the first full-length from Singapore's SADIZITK IMPALER. Still, the people involved with the band are far from inexperienced on the musical level ... not only because they are known for their participations in such acts as IMPIETY, XASTHUR, PROFANCER, HAIL, DECIUS, etc., but one can also feel it by the MUSIC itself! Otherwise, what we have here is fierce Black Metal mingled with Thrash riffs here and there. The overall sound emits something entrancingly archaic and this, along with the hellish spontaneity that has marked these 7 tracks kind of leaves with the impression that the whole material has been recorded at SADIZITK IMPALER's rehearsal place and then the guys merely sent it to Ketzer, with skipping contemptuously the studio part. "Sadizitk Syonan-to Supremacy" is among the wildest abruptions that I've witnessed for 2005!  
Vanya Marinova.....8.5

**IN MEMORIUM**  
"From Misery... Comes Darkness" CD  
MORIBUND  
Pitch-dark obscurity comes from Seattle. It's given by the American horde IN MEMORIUM with its first strike. The five musicians composed one quite good album which gathered in itself aggression and the dark in solid quantity. The style can be defined like melodic Black / Death Metal. The whole seven songs are recorded in Trillium Lane Studios and I suppose this is why the sound is similar to SERPENS Aeon, whose material has been recorded there too. The vocal parts are given to Nilhist (ex ... THY INFERNAL, ABAZAGORATH, LORD GORE).  
Stefan Stefanov.....7.0

**SEAR**  
"Begin the Celebrations of Sin" CD  
DYNAMIC ART Records  
Another impressive debut for 2005! Finland's SEAR were formed in 2001, and what they offer with their 8-song release is a pure Death / Black vortex woven maliciously by grinding riffs, avalanche-like drum attacks and vocals ranging from imminent growls to frankly hateful shrieks. That the SEAR members are well experienced musicians is obvious, but they have gone even further, with forwarding atmospheres so ominous and obscure that one can't help thinking that these Fins have not only reached the Point of No Return, but have actually forgotten where it exactly was... It couldn't be more eloquently outspoken: BEGIN THE CELEBRATIONS OF SIN!!!  
Vanya Marinova.....8.0

**DISGRACE**  
"Grey Misery" CD  
XTREEM MUSIC  
The Finnish DISGRACE cropped somewhere in the end of the 80's. They are part of the rising at that time mighty Death / Grind scene, together with names like FUNEBRE, DEMIGOD, MORDICUS, XYISMA, ABHORRENCE, DEMILICH. They exist still now, but this release is a re-issue of their first album since '92 (with re-mastered sound), together with "Inside the Labyrinth of Depression" (demo '90) and "Debts of Gods" (7" EP '91). Being pure and simple oldschool, this is worth much gain for the maniacs and not so. DISGRACE enslave with their basic brutality and have an irrefutable contribution to the world of extreme music.  
Stefan Stefanov.....7.5

**THE HERETIC**  
"Gospel Songs in E Minor" CD  
XTREEM MUSIC  
Frankly speaking, when I read the album description in the info sheet, I remained far from enthusiastic that I had to give this CD a listen. The third full-length from this Spanish quintet proved being not bad eventually. I can even say that I enjoyed it to a great extent. Just like written in the press release, "Gospel Songs in E Minor" is Symphonic Black / Death Metal oriented, and one will definitely make a mistake if s/he omits checking these 9 tracks out just because of the insertion of that "symphonic" term. A term that so many untalented have been resorting to in the last 10 years... On the contrary, THE HERETIC's latest creation turned out to delight my ear with a lot of versatility on the track-construction level, as well as with boundlessly mysterious atmospheres. I will be on the watch for these guys' potential follow-up!  
Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**AVERSE SEFIRA**  
"Tetragrammatical Asygmata" CD  
EVIL HORDE Records  
It constantly boils in the US Underground Scene and here I have the third opus of AVERSE SEFIRA. Concentrated aggression and diabolical malice stay behind this. We are under attack by Extreme Black Metal, played typically uncompromis-

ing. After a short introduction we are suddenly being involved into the chaos of the rest nine pieces of sound torture for the soul. The occult artwork drawn by Joe Kennet deserves admiration. Finally I can only say that AVERSE SEFIRA have tried to learn much, until reaching the class of bands like DARK FUNERAL for example.  
Stefan Stefanov.....5.5

**DARKEST HATE WARFRONT**  
"Satanik Annihilation Kommando"  
CD  
KETZER  
"Satanik Annihilation Kommando", as a title, appeared to fit these Brazilians' debut full-length just perfectly! In other words, what we have here is 10 tracks of severe and uncompromisingly rapid Black Metal meant for making your weak heads reel till they explode! Nothing new under the sun, some might say, but following the Unpolished is way better than following the Polished, after all! Taste the wrath of A THOUSAND FIENDS UNLEASHED!  
Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**LATHSPELL**  
"Fascination Of Devilry" CD  
EXCESOR CHRISTIANORUM Records  
LATHSPELL is a band from Finland created in '98. In the band there take part five possessed souls, who give us the fruits of their inspiration under the form of eight songs of cold northern Black Metal. The songs are played fast and straight in the vein of the style. It's definitely not something we haven't heard, so this album sounds almost traditionally and it's one more doze Black in our cursed sanity.  
Stefan Stefanov.....5.5

**GORATH**  
"Elite" CD  
BLACK OWL Records  
These guys turned out being from Belgium, and the promo CD we were sent proved to contain both new tracks and reworkings of several songs from the band's demos. Style-wise, GORATH play early 90's influenced Black Metal and, despite of the somewhat pompous title of the album itself, I couldn't deny that these guys have done a great job here! What the 9 tracks on "Elite" (+ a 10th unmentioned one) are notable for is their belittlingly obscure atmospheres and mind-sweeping ferocity. I would definitely love to hear more from GORATH in the future!  
Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**TO SEPARATE THE FLESH FROM THE BONES**  
"Utopia Sadistica" CD  
SPIKEFARM  
This Grind Core album sounds like it has been recorded 16-17 years ago. Therefore it will be evaluated by those who hear it. TSFTB are saving 25 downgraded sound bombers in less than 30 minutes. Just in the vein of the style. And the ones ready to lay: Herr Arstein ... guitar and vocals; Rot Wailer ... bass; Pus Sypoo ... drums. The main influence in the trio's music undoubtedly is due to the legendary CARCASS ... you can find it out mainly in the vocal parts, which are sweeping away our delicate hearing. It's not necessary for you to be a genius for finding that "Utopia Sadistica" is brilliant with a bottle of hard alcohol!  
Stefan Stefanov.....7.5

**SVARTSKOGG**  
"Helvete 666"  
CD  
PERISH IN LIGHT  
Now THIS is what I call a great surprise!!! What the debut full-length of Norway's two-piece SVARTSKOGG turned out to be dealing with was relentlessly whipping Black / Thrash Metal structured by thick, brain-slicing riffs, vehemently impaling drums and vociferations belching boundless rancor! Some melodic lines inserted here and there are meant to contribute to the bigger diversity of the release itself. That's all, I am not going to re-write details from the press release in order to give this review a more "complete" outlook. Instead, I will merely state that "Helvete 666" is placed strong enough that to allow the SVARTSKOGG to be least immediately beside other grim evokers of elder fiends as AURA NOIR or NOCTURNAL BREED!  
Vanya Marinova.....10

**AZAGHAL**  
"Codex Antitheus" CD  
AVANTGARDE MUSIC  
AZAGHAL keep creating their dark art which lift them in our eyes... Extreme Black Metal fulfilled with brutality that tears up. 9 brand-new hymns and a fifth album in these Finnish beasts' discography. Satan stands fully behind this, of course. And his servants are: J.L. Nokturnal - guitars, bass; Nargath - guitars, bass; T.M. Blastbeast - drums; Varjohera - vokalis. AZAGHAL are the same again and this can satisfy their fans only! This concerns me too.  
Stefan Stefanov.....8.0

**EXEKRATOR**  
"Ordo Bestiae" CD  
BESTIAL BURST  
EXEKRATOR was born in the Danish Underground still in '93, but barely now they release their first official CD. It's not even

a new album ... it contains songs from the band's two 7" EPs and some unreleased songs too. What am I going to tell you about this trio's style...total rapping the instruments for the final product: lunatic Heavy / Black Metal. I haven't listened to such a band before, but I don't mean this is a compliment for EXEKRATOR. The vocalist screams so high during the most of the time and that just offends the ear. No, damn, that's not for me and that's all.  
Stefan Stefanov.....5.0

**CHAKAL**  
"Demon King" CD  
COSUMELO  
Brazil's CHAKAL turned out to be far from a young band ... in 2007 they are actually celebrating their 20th anniversary. Their latest offering "Demon King" appealed to me from the very beginning, with forwarding such a BLASTING sound to the listener's poor, unsuspecting ears! Uncompromisingly vehement and solid Thrash / Death Metal is what you should be expecting here, and what this in general hellish blend is additionally completed with is slight 80's Heavy Metal shades scattered here and there ... these meant to contribute to the greater variety of melodies in "Demon King", but NEVER to make the album sound softer! Old Hounds will be Old Hounds!  
Vanya Marinova.....10

**DARKTHRONE**  
"The Cult Is Alive" CD  
PEACEVILLE / TYRANT SYNDICATE  
Punk never became my passion, even though personal favorites like VENOM and MOTORHEAD have a lot of its vibes in their own riffs. For that same reason it took me a bit more time until "Too Old, Too Cold" - the EP preceding DARKTHRONE's 12th album, started appealing to me. On the other hand, that was the sound that Fenriz and Nocturno Culto have been sticking most frankly to it the last 6-7 years, so let's say that they finally made it a 100 %, and the end result is the aforementioned EP and "The Cult Is Alive". The latter release, with such nose smashers as "The Cult of Goliath" or "Atomic Coming", succeeded in convincing me totally that DARKTHRONE are yet to sell themselves out! And, although I'm aware of the guys' carelessness about visuals, I can't help noting that Kim Solve and Trine Paulsen have done a great job with the layout. On the lyrical front, Fenriz has once more shown up with AMAZING lines. HAIL!  
Vanya Marinova.....10

**CAPAKT**  
"Same" CD  
DISTRIBUTOR OF PAIN  
This is actually the re-release of CAPAKT's demo since 1997 ... a year when the term of "Bulgarian Black Metal Scene" hardly sounded less amusing than the way "Kabul Open Air" would sound at present. No wonder that with his project Kiril Nenov is then regarded by many as one of Bulgaria's 90's Black Metal pioneers... The 4 songs on the CD I was sent offer Black Metal in praise of Bulgaria's ancient history. It is not every day when I personally join reviews of albums from bands hailing from my own country so I do my best in giving them the support they need, but about CAPAKT I can write absolutely nothing positive: this CD proved to be one of the most inferior releases on the BM front that I've come across.  
Vanya Marinova.....5.0

**FEARER**  
"Backfire" CD  
REMISSION Records  
Probably this is an unknown band for the most fans. They come from Emden, Northern Germany. "Backfire" is the third album of the four musicians who started in the way of the oldschool Death Metal. This Death Metal that drove crazy everybody in the beginning of the 90's and that will live forever. FEARER are doing well and reach their goal ... we are breaking our heads by headbanging after being drunk... The high shouts of Tom Zorn are inspired by Jon Tardy's (OBITUARY) shouts and they resemble them quite skilfully. Judging from the titles of the eleven songs, the lyrics seem to be at military themes.  
Stefan Stefanov.....7.5

**EUPHOBIA**  
"Cup of Mud" CD  
DISTRIBUTOR OF PAIN  
"Cup of Mud" is the debut full-length from EUPHOBIA, and what the CD attracts the heed with first is its very front cover representing...Celtic cross-shielded female groins. Otherwise, the 8 tracks here are compiled with the Death / Core blend ... not my "cup of mud" really, but still I couldn't deny that this Bulgarian trio do know what they're doing! Ultimately, the EUPHOBIA CD proved to feature a video of the "Maligna track" (#1 in the album).  
Vanya Marinova.....7.0

**ARISE**  
"The Beautiful New World" CD  
SPINEFARM  
For all fans of Swedish kind of Death / Thrash Metal there is something interesting here, and it has to be heard. Melodic and aggressive, influenced by AT THE GATES. The third strike of ARISE disturbs the

calmness in our souls and drives us to headbang. The sound-ing is classical for the style and the songs are conquering and we don't realize when all the eleven tracks are gone. Although many bands work this way, ARISE seem to be one of the leading names nowadays, even they aren't so much unique.  
Stefan Stefanov.....7.5

**OKSANAT**  
"Aurora" CD  
DISTRIBUTOR OF PAIN  
Frankly inspired by the mid 90s, when more and more BM bands started resorting to keyboard part / female vocal insertions, the 8 tracks on the CD of Serbia's OKSANAT will certainly appeal to all those who keep associating Black Metal mostly with bands like DIMMU BORGIR, LIMBONIC ART or MYSTIC CIRCLE. I personally swim in another corridor, but still I couldn't deny that the "Aurora" release is devoid of neither skilful performances nor magnetism atmosphere-wise.  
Vanya Marinova.....6.5

**MALSAIN**  
"They Never Die" CD  
DARK ESSENCE Records  
They come from Bergen and they're the new hope of the Norwegian Black Metal Scene. After the demo there comes the first album which combines middle-tempo Black Metal, suggesting claustrophobic darkness and despair. A woman stands behind the microphone and her screams, although they are monotonous really, darken the atmosphere around. MALSAIN are trying to play like Khold but they are still so far from this level and have much to learn. Half of the songs in "They Never Die" are in English, the rest are in Norwegian. In the end of this review I can only wish the five musicians one more successful second album. Hope we'll hear it soon.  
Stefan Stefanov.....6.0

**DIABOLISM**  
"Concealed Art" MCD  
DISTRIBUTOR OF PAIN  
I had the chance to hear Bulgaria's DIABOLISM back in '96, when they won the best band prize at the annual Burgas Fest (1994-2000). The MCD I was sent features material recorded between 2001 and 2003 and, like DOP's head Gogo told me in his letter, "Concealed Art" is the last release that DIABOLISM are coming up with. It couldn't be more evil and grimmer ... here in Bulgaria Art still starts with a minuscule, for the sake of misery and crime. Whatever... What the 3 tracks on this mini album offer is especially dismal Black Metal riffs aesthetically adorned with keyboard tunes. Representatives of this BM sub-style manage to leave me intrigued far from often really, but DIABOLISM definitely made it, for being such good musicians! Awesome album, too!  
Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**BELLUM / RHUNE**  
"Vindland Rising" Split CD  
NM COMPOS MENTIS Records  
BELLUM and RHUNE come from USA and they're trying to play Black Metal. Unfortunately they're not doing it very well. The sound of the seven tracks is bad, especially RHUNE's. These are probably demons. None of the songs can intrigue my thirsty for darkness soul, so I change the disc and go into other horizons... I don't know who could give his money for this, but I definitely won't.  
Stefan Stefanov.....3.0

**SOULLESS**  
"Sentenced to Desert of Fire" CD  
DISTRIBUTOR OF PAIN  
It is quite seldom when something on the Death Metal front

**apathic view productions**  
enthusiastically specified in terrorizing soundscapes

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happens to catch my ear, and about SOULLESS I would say that they sound rather promising! Indeed, there is still more to wish, but what is more important is that these guys from Poland fear not to experiment, and one can sense it by the remarkably versatile track constructions! Apart from the latest "Sentenced to Desert of Fire" album, this CD also includes the band's previous "Peri Psyche's" release as a bonus material. Something that gives the listener a chance to trace back SOULLESS' development more thoroughly. I personally enjoyed "Peri Psyche's" better, for sounding more fervently Underground! The material features also decent cover versions of SEPULTURA and DEICIDE.

Vanya Marinova.....7.0

#### NEEDFUL THINGS

"Dead Point" CD

KHAARANUS

NEEDFUL THINGS are part of the steadily increasing Grind Core Scene in the Czech Republic. Five angry freaks stay behind this all. Their songs are fast and merciless and don't leave doubt in their brutality. Some NAPALM DEATH influences can be perceived here and the last track ("Low Point") from the album is a cover of the famous English beasts. "Dead Point" can impress people who like such a music.

Stefan Stefanov.....7.0

#### DIED SMILING

"Evolution of the Fist" CD

CASKET MUSIC

This is a debut for UK's DIED SMILING, and I was about to call it impressive until I heard those vocals sounding like such a pathetic Mike Patton / Dave Mustaine epigon! Otherwise, the music is quite decent... what it deals with is harsh, grinding riffs combined with ponderous drumming, thus forming a sound that any PANTERA fan might admire. If it has ONLY not been these vocals!

Vanya Marinova.....7.0

#### ARKONA / BESATT / THIRST

"Holokaust Zniwonych Mas" / "Diabolus Perfectus" /

"Raise the Blasphemer" 3-way Split CD

ALLES STENAR Records

Three bands from the deep Polish Underground and each of them is taking part in this disc with three songs. These are on the Scene for a long time, although they are unknown to the most Metal maniacs. ARKONA are opening and it's with a cover of BESATT. They play uncompromising and extremely fast War Black Metal. The programmed drums make a bad impression to me. I had heard about BESATT years ago, but I couldn't hear them until now. No doubt the best band in this split, which is suggesting us candid satanic Black Metal. The blasphemers of THIRST come at last with their Atmospheric Black Metal. Total chaos like we're expecting Armageddon to come and sweep us away. There is a cover here too, namely "Raise the Dead" of BATHORY.

Stefan Stefanov.....5.0

#### REX DEVS

"Zodiaco" CD

Self Released

Argh, I hate it when bands choose printing their bios out in fonts other than Times New Roman or any other that are easier to read! Whatever, I STILL managed to find out that REX DEVS hail from Spain and that "Zodiaco" is their first full-length as yet. Which turned out being a conceptual one, with offering 12 opuses in praise of each zodiacal sign. Music-wise, the album is Symphonic Black Metal oriented... I did not remain deaf for the members' rather successful attempts of achieving more celestial and mysterious atmospheres here, but they should have at least chosen a better female vocalist, since they couldn't pass without any so much...Decent layout.

Vanya Marinova.....6.5

#### PAGAN FOREST

"Pure Harmony Of The Night" / "Posrod Zlowszczey Cisy" CD

ALLES STENAR Records

PAGAN FOREST was born in 1995, somewhere in Poland. We can guess what to expect just from the name... PAGAN BLACK METAL with a solid keyboard presence, clean epic vocals and episodic aggressive inclusions here and there. The band's core is the two persons: Bakis (all voices) and Sonath (guitars, bass, programming), who are using guest musicians to complete their musical creations. "Pure Harmony of the Night" (2004) and "Posrod Zlowszczey Cisy" (1999) are the last two demos of PAGAN FOREST. The last track "Dzien" is a bonus, taken from demo '97.

Stefan Stefanov.....5.5

#### LUNAR AURORA

"Ars Moriendi" CD

SUPERNAL MUSIC

Germany's LUNAR AURORA was formed in 1994 and I have actually heard that name from enthusiastic friends years back, with never to have felt interested in checking anything of the band out. The CD I'm listening to at the moment is actually a re-issue of LUNAR AURORA's "Ars Moriendi" full-length since 2001, with being added an additional guitar, new layouts, etc. What I have to say is that these 9 tracks made me feel kind of nostalgic for the times when I had just discovered "The Moon in the Scorpio" for myself and the air I was breathing at the time was filled to the brim with magic... Anyways, those who are yet to give LUNAR AURORA a listen should expect stunning Sympho-Black Metal haloed with a lot of mysticism and vigour. Great musicians here!

Vanya Marinova.....8.0

#### LUCIFUGUM

"The Supreme Art Of Genocide" CD

PROPAGANDA

The two inhuman monsters who are spitting the hatred piece called LUCIFUGUM possess our souls with their latest album which is eleventh in their carrier. This Ukrainian project hides ten years of existence in the Underground. What is their music like? I can describe it like a high form of blasphemous art and I won't be wrong because this is one of the most evil Black Metal albums I've ever heard. This impression comes from the demonic, insane screams which are bringing up the Russian texts non-stop with never failing hysterical madness. But if we leave the vocals aside, I can feel that the rest parts sound monotonous, straightforward and raw. Crude sound and total lack of individuality of all "holy"! Here is the point of view of LUCIFUGUM, printed backside on the disc: "We don't play, we attack by Antihuman Poisonous Black Metal!".

Stefan Stefanov.....6.5

#### EMANCER

"The Menace Within" CD

GOLDEN LAKE

This CD proved to offer Black Metal fully complied with the sound criteria circa 1996... The tracks that this two-piece act from the UK has come up with shine most of all with their nocturnally enigmatic atmospheres, consistence and (unobtrusive) versatility, which makes listening to them far from a bad experience even for those who have stopped updating themselves with releases from new bands on the Black Metal front after 1995. Check "The Menace Within" out.

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

#### THE FIRSTBORN

"The Unclenching of Fists" CD

PROCON MEDIA

THE FIRSTBORN is a band which comes from Portugal, and has more than ten years of history. They called themselves FIRSTBORN EVIL before, but now they have changed their name after the release of the first album. The band keeps evolving all these years. "The Unclenching of Fists" is the quartet's third and most malicious album. It is a conceptual creation dealing with Tantric Buddhism, based on the Bardo Thodol (the Tibetan "Book of the Dead"). It has been developed for about four years and about one year for the recording. The music itself is experimental which has Death Metal in its base, which is combined with solid quality Eastern ethnic influences. The 13 songs possess with something mystic and sound so oldschool. I see that in "The Unclenching of Fists" there takes part also Rolando Barros (aka Gorg) from FILII NIGRANTUM INFERNALUM, like a session drummer.

Stefan Stefanov.....8.0

#### SIGILLUM DIABOLI

"Same" MCD

BLASPHEMOUS UNDERGROUND

It turned out that this mini album was merely a re-release of Russia's SIGILLUM DIABOLI's demo tape. What I can write about these 6 tracks on the whole is that with them the only person standing behind this band has paid quite an impressive tribute to such currently respected acts like DARKTHRONE or BURZUM. Nothing new under the sun, yeah, but let's not forget that we speak of a ONE-MAN band here: the man has done a job way greater than many three or four-piece clones of the aforementioned bands, with sounding totally dedicated to what he has been doing for a while and incredibly skilled at the same time! Do not miss "Sigillum Diaboli".

Vanya Marinova.....7.0

#### TORTURE WHEEL

"Crushed Under..." CD

FREEDOOM MUSIC

Proper name, because the music of this one-man project from USA is passing across the listener's all positive emotions just like the wheel of torture. The four songs in this EP are dead of E.M. Hearst (all instruments, composition, recording & mixing) and have an average length of 10 minutes. The affair in the question is about unusually dark Funeral Doom Metal, which is dragging on like a funeral from beyond. The vocals take part very rarely and sound more like a noise from another dimension. Hopelessness and despair possessed me while I was listening. I recommend it only to depressive and pessimistic people.

Stefan Stefanov.....7.0

#### KARSTEN HAMRE

"Broken Whispers" CD

FLOOD THE EARTH Records

This is another project of Karsten, still known from his appearance in VEILED ALLUSIONS, PENITENT and ARCANER ART. Calm and dark Ambient, which seems to be forced from another dimension. The seven compositions are conquering slowly but surely our sanity and find a place there, carrying with themselves unidentified and despairing impulses. I turn off the lights in my room and dip my thoughts into this different world...

Stefan Stefanov.....7.0

#### MAY RESULT

"Svetogrdje" CD

ROCK EXPRESS Records

The Serbian pride MAY RESULT is absorbing us in one impenetrable, blasphemous darkness with their fourth realization "Svetogrdje" (in translation "The Blasphemy"). This Black

Metal horde was born in '95 and rise to be the one of the leading extreme formations of the Balkans little by little. The disc contains 8 typical, traditional Black opuses, full of unearthly keyboard presence. In a moment Metal steps aside and give us an opportunity to find ourselves under the magical effect of mystic, cursed passages full of the sounding of acoustic guitars, piano and synths. "Svetogrdje" has length of over 70 minutes and all the songs are in the Serbians' native language.

Stefan Stefanov.....7.5

#### HATE PROFILE

"The Khaos Hatefile" CD

CRUZ DEL SUR

"The Khaos Hatefile" is the debut full-length from Italy's HATE PROFILE, and it is meant to be the first chapter of a trilogy ("The Soule Proceeds..." and "Spirit Breed Era Vulgaris" waiting in line). Style-wise, the CD is mid 90's BM related, still without having anything to do with the bombastic ambiences intrinsic to most bands from that period. On the contrary, in "The Khaos Hatefile" each single riff, drum hit and synth melody piece is inserted in its right place, as a result of which one gets both performance perfection and nocturnal mysteriousness. I'm definitely interested in hearing in hearing the other 2 chapters as well!

Vanya Marinova.....8.0

#### MANEGARM

"Vredens Tid" CD

DISPLEASED

Hi-m-m... It's hard for me to describe this amazing album with a few words only. The might of these 11 Viking Metal hymns is not equal to any of this kind. The songs of MANEGARM are thought with a supreme sense - the melodies are conquering the mind and the variety of vocal parts guarantees good emotions. It's a pity I still can't speak Norwegian... Otherwise, this is the fourth album in their discography and the best in their music carrier! The artwork is made again by the well known Kris Vervimp - the perfect vision of the ideas in the heart of "Vredens tid"! This is where the true Viking Metal gods are!

Stefan Stefanov.....10

#### DROWNED

"By the Grace of Evil" CD

COGUMELO

I had the chance to get acquainted with Brazil's DROWNED on the aural level back in 2001, with being sent their "Bonegrinder" album. Back then I had viewed this band as very promising, I subsequently got a few more releases from them, and they also left me with positive feelings. As for DROWNED's latest effort, it proved to sound more mature yet kind of... Well, it is merely that DROWNED still play Death / Thrash Metal and they are obviously doing great, but the Underground ferocity is irrevocably gone here. The perfect example of how futile it is to keep both the wolf and the lamb alive.

Vanya Marinova.....7.0

#### DEATHBOUND

"Doomsday Comfort" CD

DYNAMIC ART Records

So what do we have here? Wild Death / Core material forged at Soundlab Studios by Mieszko Talarczyk (RIP)... The truth, however, is that even if "Doomsday Comfort", the second full-length from Finland's DEATHBOUND, had happened to be recorded on Mars that would have not made me like it better. Bands like that are not for me. And it's not that I've ever been a huge NASUM fan, but why the hell should have it been mentioned in the press release that "Doomsday Comfort" was the last album recorded at Soundlab? Cheap commercial tracks...

Vanya Marinova.....6.0

#### ARCTURUS

"Sideshow Symphonies" CD

SEASON OF MIST

Play "Sideshow Symphonies", raise your look towards the night sky filled with stars, and dream with open eyes possessed by the magic of the music...With their fourth creation, ARCTURUS live up our expectations, even outstrip them. It's hard to describe this complex and avantgarde creation only in few words... Each of the 8 songs is unique with its many layers which are well combining in itself the brain-cracking clean vocals of the new throat in the band - ISC Vortex (BORKNAGAR, D. BORGIR), the faultless drum attacks of Hellhammer (MAYHEM, WINDS, etc.) and the provocative keyboard effusions of Sverd. Just like an endless magical carnival amongst the shadows of human fantasy... Classic, no doubt!

Stefan Stefanov.....9.0

#### CRYPTIC WINTERMOON

"Of Shadows...And The Dark Things You Fear" CD

MASSACRE

The new album of CRYPTIC WINTERMOON which comes again by MASSACRE Records. I haven't heard the previous "A Coming Storm" (2003), so this is my first meeting with this German formation, which still exists since 1993. The six ones play melodic Death Metal where you can find Black Metal influences with great difficulty. The songs are played in middle

tempo and have quite a good sounding - the album is mastered by Bruno Kramm (DAS ICH) at Danse Macabre Studios. The influence from Swedish school can be felt from the structure of the tracks themselves. And howsoever, CRYPTIC WINTERMOON has its own face.

Stefan Stefanov.....7.0

#### ARALLU

"The Demon from the Ancient World" CD

EPIDEMIE Records

I have Israel's ARALLU's previous releases also and they all had left me with great impressions, thence I was more than glad to notice "The Demon from the Ancient World" in the latest package that Chavdar sent me! Thus, the guys keep sticking to their unique sound based on mixing raw Black / Thrash riffs with authentic Oriental rhythms - believe it or not, the combination is STUNNING! In addition, ARALLU appears one of the few bands in the world that succeeds a 100 % in forwarding frankly belligerent, apocalyptic ambiences with the same ease which you folks put CDs in your players with! To all those "satanic" enthusiasts who have intentionally chosen omitting ARALLU merely because the guys happened hailing from Israel: Christ could have easily been born in your own country and this that he still had been not doesn't make you less pathetic!

Vanya Marinova.....8.5

#### ALETHEIAN

"Dying Vine" CD

HOPE PREVAILS Productions

This is the third full-length from USA's ALETHEIAN (formerly known as CRUTCH), and what it offers is 9 tracks where Death Metal outbursts meet Progressive flick-flacks. I couldn't say that "Dying Vine" enthralled me, as it has always been the atmosphere rather than the technique stage that I paid a greater attention to. I guess if a musician gives ALETHEIAN a listen, s/he would remain more intrigued than me.

Vanya Marinova.....7.0

#### AYDRA

"Hyperlogical Non-Sense" CD

XTREME RISING

AYDRA is a vaguely known Italian group which plays Progressive Death Metal. The songs are melodious with many transitions and changes in the rhythm. No doubt, bands like DEATH have influences in this album. The five musicians have skills but from now on they have to prove themselves to the fans.

Stefan Stefanov.....6.0

#### MORRIGAN

"Headcult" CD

UNDERCOVER Records

Germany's MORRIGAN is formerly known as MAYHEMIC TRUTH, and I remember that I've seen the latter name in the catalogues of a friend that I used to get music from... As for "Headcult", the 4th MORRIGAN album, it would certainly appeal to most epic Black Metal admirers, especially if those are hopelessly addicted to BATHORY's works after '88. Check the album out, it is worth your ear drums' sacrifice!

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

#### <CODE>

"Nouveau Gloaming" CD

SPIKEFARM

<CODE> is a result of the joint work of musicians from the English and Norwegian Black Metal Scenes. Here have been involved the members of VED BUENS ENDE, VOID, DHG and ULVER. This is the first album for this young band and a promising beginning. <CODE> strike with the fury and oldschool malice of Khold and they insert their avantgarde way of structuring the tracks. In them you will discover aggression and maniacal madness, transformed in a unique way. A new twilight is coming above us...

Stefan Stefanov.....8.0

#### KILL THE THRILL

"Tellurique" - CD

SEASON OF MIST

This French band turned out existing for almost 20 years, but still "Tellurique", their latest effort, is the first ever album that I'm hearing from them. The Season Of Mist press release defines the album as an Industrial / Metal one with some Rock and New Wave touches in addition. I would say that "Tellurique" sounded in my ears like France's reply to the mighty "Pandemonium" release to a great extent. For that very reason, it was then somewhat amusing to read that the list of bands that KILL THE THRILL have played live with (YOUNG GODS, DILINGER ESCAPE PLAN, ZENI GEVA, etc.) turned out featuring KILLING JOKE as well. Otherwise, I found the Frenchmen's CD far from bad - it might not shine with vertiginously complicated musical performances, but emits entrancing melancholy and aesthetic nihilism. Yeah, that's what I'm saying, aesthetic nihilism.

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

#### TAUNUSHEIM

"Nebelkammer" CD

SCHWARZDORN

It was 1995 when the two brothers Erik and Patrick decided to form TAUNUSHEIM. Three demos were made until this album has been recorded. "Nebelkammer" is one dizzy Pagan Metal riding. The German language songs have an indicative Black Metal structure. The four musicians are inspired by Taunus mountains, but in the lyrics you will



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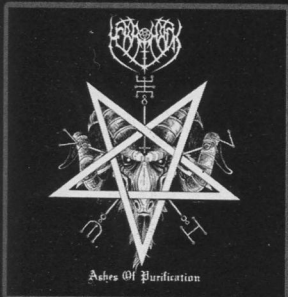
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Stefan Stefanov.....6,0

#### ENEMO-J

"The Angels Will Return for Us" CD  
CASKET MUSIC

I won't lie to you, the first thought that crossed my head was "oh no, Casket Music again!". Judging from what Chavdar sent me thus far, this British label left steady impressions of a Happy Rock airheads breeding house. ENEMO-J, at any case, did succeed in attracting my attention with their fiercely straightforward riffs. Which for a while even made me forget that I loathe Metal / Core stuff... "The Angels Will Return for Us" is ENEMO-J's debut by the way, and what I can say is that I really hope these guys from the UK will keep the same hole-leaving pace for years ahead!

Vanya Marinova.....7,5

#### VEILED ALLUSIONS

"When Darkness Descends" CD  
DISPASED

Darkness, darkness... and only darkness are gushing from the third opus of VEILED ALLUSIONS, one of the projects of the creator Karsten Hamre (ARCAINE ART, PENITENT). 10 dragging songs which sound almost like one. It's neither a party music, nor for making the mood better. Unusually obscure Ambient which is good to listen to when the night falls. There are no vocals and the mood is somewhere in the edge of dream and reality. Monotonous from the beginning to the end - like a fall in the abyss woven by an invisible lack of time... and this possessing darkness again...

Stefan Stefanov.....7,5

#### INDIGO CHILD

"ReDeath" CD  
ROCK MACHINE

Quite an intriguing band name that appeared to be - with the first read it called weird associations with DEPECHE MODE's "The Darkest Star" song... The very INDIGO CHILD music, although speaking quite eloquently of these Slovenians' aim at coming up with something utterly unconventional, broke the spell at birth after all. "ReDeath" turned out sounding like yet another mediocre Goth / Metal release, and all that I managed sucking out of my brain cells to write it down here was that the INDIGO CHILD debut goes on digi-pack and features a video.

Vanya Marinova.....6,0

#### BESTIAL MOCKERY

"Gospel Of The Insane" CD  
OSMOSE

The Satanists with the chainsaw have come amongst us again to tear and torment unendingly! Third full-length strike, which is just like a fist in the face of the posers. Pure malice and unbridled aggression are swarming from this uncompromising Thrash / Black Metal album. BESTIAL MOCKERY are sounding like a 1000 demons unleashed. It seems their goal is to destroy the humanity with their outrage in the name of Satan. You will discover the oldschool atmosphere and the madness which is going to possess you while you're listening to this unclean music in "Gospel of the Insane". I see that the song "Father in Heaven" is old, taken from the 7" EP "Nuclear Goat".

Stefan Stefanov.....8,0

#### GREEN CARNATION

"The Quiet Offspring" CD  
SEASON OF MIST

This is the fifth full-length in the discography of Norway's GREEN CARNATION so far, and the first ever I'm coming across. I heard you: "WHAAAT!!!" She has not heard the TCHORT BAND!!!! I haven't felt interested, I haven't checked out. What "The Quiet Offspring" proved to offer anyway was thick riffs laced with stunning leads, melancholically beautiful keyboards and far from pretentious but still really powerful vocals. In my ears at least, these 11 tracks appeared to portray perfectly the exhaustive, blurry trip of the soul through anger and depression vorices, until reaching the caress-like gray shores of maturely calm acceptance that one might also call wisdom...

Vanya Marinova.....8,0

#### EVIL REIGNS SUPREME Vol. 1

Compilation CD  
WARKULT Productions

Thirteen evil Black Metal bands gathered under one flag by the French Warkult Prods - that's what you'll find in "Evil Reigns Supreme". I won't waste your time with analyzing all thirteen bands since they are all strictly Black Metal and there isn't a great difference in their sound. UNHOLY WAR impressed me most with some fierce Thrash elements and OSIRION for their spiteful and powerful sound. All bands have good ideas but some of them have really awful sound. This comp CD will be appreciated by all fans of raw Black Metal, and is the consecutive proof for the strong scene in France.

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,0

#### CARNAL LUST

"Rebirth In Hate" MCD  
DIAMOND Productions

After the "Whore of Violence" from 2003 French Deathers CARNAL LUST finally release the follow-up "Rebirth In Hate". Here you'll find four songs and if you've had the chance of hearing the previous album you won't be



surprised at all - it's the same Death Metal in the vein of the old Swedish Death Metal bands from the beginning of the 90's. Heavy and melodic riffs, pounding drums and growling vocals - nothing unusual. Good effort - hopefully there'll be a full-length soon.

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,0

#### VINTERRIKET

"Lichtschleier" CD  
FLOOD THE EARTH RECORDS

I hadn't come across this Atmospheric project from Germany before - it had been only friends' superlatives. Now that Chavdar forwarded me TWO releases of VINTERRIKET, I can finally say my word here... Thus, the CD I'm listening to right now turned out featuring also a video of the title track, and what I could say is that with its coldly reticent yet unearthly beautiful melodies, "Lichtschleier" brought me back to years of voluntary isolation against the background of silent winter afternoons and books stirring rebellious flames inside. Marvellous soundscapes that are to be shown to a wider circle of listeners in mid 2006!

Vanya Marinova.....8,0

#### INSIDIOUS DECREPANCY

"Decadent Orgy Of Atrocious Suffering" CD  
UNMATCHED BRUTALITY

Here we have the debut effort of INSIDIOUS DECREPANCY - a one-man project of Shawn Whitaker (VIRAL LORD). Actually this is a re-release, the album has been released in 2002 for the first time. So this is a "decadent orgy" of brutal Death / Grind with a drum machine. The production isn't bad, the artificial beats of the drum computer don't sound too disturbing. Shawn's vocals are deep grunts and his playing is tight. The album ends with a cover of IMMOLATION's "Dawn of Possession". In case you're into brutal Death / Grind - check this out!

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5

#### MZ

"Romantic" CD  
THUNDERING Records

This release is another proof that, in most cases at least, Power / Progressive musicians blame it all on their affinity to classical music, whenever being asked to analyze their weaving of atmospheres that I personally call pompous. France's MZ refer to classical music A LOT and have additionally inserted their I-spread-my-wings-and-fly solos, accordingly rapid rhythm and synth vorices. Yet another feeble attempt of these guys to sound as epically solemn as possible: they sing in chorus! And that's something that I cannot even laugh at...

Vanya Marinova.....5,0

#### DESTINITY

"Synthetic Existence" CD  
ADIPOCERE

"Synthetic Existence" is the fifth album of France's DESTINITY and what you'll find here is an amalgam of Death, Black and Thrash Metal. There are influences from DIMMU Borgir (mainly in the keyboards' sound) and some modern bands like HATESPHERE. The production is on a very good level and shows the real potential of the songs. Those nine tracks won't leave the average extreme Metal fan disappointed, there's a decent video of the song "Evolution: Devilution" as a bonus.

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5

#### EXILIA

"Unleashed" CD  
G. U. N.

In my ears at least, with their debut EXILIA proved to sound like Italy's reply to GUANO APES. No more, no less. But EXILIA obviously enjoy other people's interest, since they have been invited to support such acts as RAMMSTEIN, HIM, IN EXTREMO, OOMPH! or CLAWFINGER. Well congratulations... these Milanese are far from bad musicians in fact, it is just that I never got to love that type of bands.

Vanya Marinova.....6,5

#### MUST MISSA

"The Target of Hate" CD  
HYPER Records

I don't know many bands from Estonia and it turns out that MUST MISSA are old-timers on the Underground Scene. Just see their pictures with leather, chains and bullet-belts and you'll see those guys are oldschool! Take the riffs of CELTIC FROST, the feeling of VENOM and the rage of some more recent bands like BEWITCHED and the result is Black / Thrash Metal for exhausting headbanging. MUST MISSA (Viking-vocals / bass, Ank-guitar and Suss-drums) have some Rock'n'Roll elements in their sound reminding a bit of some of ENTOMBED's hateworks. The intensity doesn't stop through the entire album, the production is raw but not bad. "The Target of Hate" is one strong record and an opportunity for you to party hard and support the Estonian Metal Scene!

Tsvetan Rachev.....8,0

#### ATOMIC ANTS

"Keep Cool and Dry" CD  
CASKET MUSIC

Although the debut album from Italy's ATOMIC ANTS quite eloquently proves that these dudes are far from devoid of musi-

anship, I failed totally in finding something for myself here... What we have is 14 tracks of Alternative / Metal played with a great deal of enthusiasm and dedication. Try the album out, in case you're into bands referred to the above mentioned blend.

Vanya Marinova.....6,5

#### PLASTIC EARTH

"S.E.A.M.01" CD  
WORLD CHAOS Productions

Don't you think it's enough already? I mean who needs another DARK TRANQUILITY / SOILWORK clone, this time coming from Japan?! PLASTIC EARTH are some Japanese "Gothenburg" fans and "S.E.A.M. 01" is the proof for that. The production is on a high level, the instruments are well played, those guys are good musicians. But those moaning vocals ala Mikael Stanne (DARK TRANQUILITY) really stretched my nerves. PLASTIC EARTH have good songs but they just can't step out of the shadows of the Swedish "rockstars". Anyway, in case you're curious enough to be interested in a "Gothenburg" - sounding band from Japan - this isn't a bad choice!

Tsvetan Rachev.....6,0

#### MANES

"Vileph" MCD  
AURAL MUSIC

"Vileph", the previous album from MANES that actually marked the band's farewell to Black Metal had truly appealed to me for its richness on the experimenting level, but the MCD that these Norwegians have come up with turned out sounding way poorer. Expect adolescent 80's Dark Wave vocals against the background of hyper standard Electro / Goth loops.

Vanya Marinova.....6,0

#### NAUMACHIA

"Wrathorn" MCD  
ADIPOCERE

NAUMACHIA are representatives of the huge Polish Metal Scene but unlike VADER and BEHEMOTH they play melodic Death Metal with strong keyboard presence and groovy riffs. Obviously those guys are good musicians but there's nothing really outstanding about "Wrathorn". Some elements from CHILDREN OF BODOM and old IN FLAMES here and there, but nothing above average. Hopefully their next album will be more challenging.

Tsvetan Rachev.....6,5

#### MADDER MORTEM

"Desiderata" CD  
PEACEVILLE

With their 4th album Norway's MADDER MORTEM are once again meant to catch you totally unprepared for what to expect in the next 2 minutes while listening to the CD! Striking relentlessly from the very beginning with "My Name Is Silence", the release then unfolds as an utter chaos paragon by means of heavy riffs alternating with desolation-emitting, calmer moments... this all sealed with schizophrenically unpredictable drumming! Last but not least we come to Agnete, the MADDER MORTEM songstress. It looks like this woman will never stop startling with her voice so sharpening clean and diverse, that you eventually shrug shoulders to your obvious failure in imagining what other way insanity might be singing in... Style orientation clues, you say? Let the MUSIC speak of itself!!!

Vanya Marinova.....8,5

#### ENSOPH

"Project X-Katon" CD  
CRUZ DEL SUR

I remember that Italy's ENSOPH's previous release ("Opus Dementiae...") had left me with somewhat reserved feelings, for sounding so weaker than "The Bleeding Womb of Ananke" (2001). As for the band's latest effort, it is again Goth / Metal oriented but seems to sound more straightforward. Something that I personally liked, as it is once in a blue moon when sonic X-mass tree equivalents manage to catch the ear... Good return of ENSOPH I think, the first 1500 copies of "Project X-Katon" go with a bonus material.

Vanya Marinova.....7,5

#### ANIMUS HERILIS

"Recipere Ferum" CD  
ADIPOCERE

"Black art doesn't need especially evolution but sincerity" - that's a statement on the info sheet with the bio of the French band ANIMUS HERILIS. No matter if you agree or not ANIMUS HERILIS's music is just that - traditional Black Metal without any innovative elements. The melodic riffs are interesting, the tempo is high and the vocals are typical harsh shrieks. The production is on a good level, the sound isn't bad either. All lyrics are in French. Anyone who's into traditional Black Metal will like this CD.

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5

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## METAL OSTENTATION IV

Compilation CD  
ENCLAVE Records

Here we have the fourth part of Metal Ostentation Comp. released again by the Portuguese label Enclave Records. The CD has 18 bands displaying different styles of heavy music. First are SWEDISH MASSACRE (from Sweden of course) playing tight and fast Thrash / Death Metal in the vein of HATESPHERE and THE HAUNTED. Next are INCENDIUM from Finland with one melancholic Rock song with the typical Finnish sound. Third are the Germans STOLEN PLEASURE playing fierce Death Metal in the oldschool manner. Quite an interesting band follows - BY PALE LIGHT from Norway having in its line-up Jan Axel Blomberg known better as MAYHEM's Hellhammer. Surprisingly the style is melodic Doom Metal in the vein of ANATHEMA with great vocals. Belgium's DEVOURED are next with an "Orgasm In Blood" of brutal Death Metal. Time for some "Hard Cock Rock" from Germany - THE PHARAOHS who strike with a MOTORHEAD-like ode about Elvis Presley, ANACHRONAEON (what a name, eh!) follows with a short 2-minute melodic Death Metal piece. Next is one old Spanish band - BETWEEN THE FROST, and their melodic Black Metal. DUMHAM from USA attack with a single dose of furious Black Metal. On number 10 is one really old (created back in 1981) Italian band - URBAN FIGHT and their untypical kind of Rock music (I don't have a proper description) with keyboards. Listen for yourself! Next is another band from Norway - THYROVENT who play some kind of epic Heavy Metal with roaring vocals. Time for some Metal from Greece - MEMORAIN are playing Bay Area influenced Thrash Metal, MEGADETH-like. On the fatal number 13 are DRAGONLANCE from Japan - skillfully played Heavy Metal in the vein of RHAPSODY. Next are ANCESTRAL LEGACY from Norway - Gothic Metal in the vein of THEATRE OF TRAGEDY. HINHRUNA (Infernal Destiny in Etrurian) from Italy follows with one piece of raw Black Metal with bad sound. METHEDRAS are from Italy too and attack with a solid dose of technical Thrash in the vein of CORONER or ANACRUSIS. Next are TODGEUCHTER with hilarious promo picture and bad demo sounding "evil" Black Metal. The end comes with the Dutch Industrial / Death Metalls B-LOW - an ode for two distorted bass guitars and samplers. The conclusion is: METAL OSTENTATION is an useful compilation CD with some great bands to look for!

Tsvetan Rachev.....8.5

## TEST SWITCH ISOLATOR

"Let's Dance" CD  
CASSET MUSIC

After ENEMO-J, TSI appeared being another great surprise from Casket Music! "Let's Dance" is barely the debut of this English band, but one can already sense that these dudes are least experienced enough that to be able to involve such a hilariously insane hotpotch of Grind and Hard Core vehemence and Punk / Rock jolliness, this ultimately sprinkled with a Jazz pinch! The perfect weapon for flipping the moron next door out whenever you see him / her crossing the Line!!!

Vanya Marinova.....8.0

## SHIZTOME

"The Art of Dying" CD  
CASSET MUSIC

Another impressive release via Casket! SHIZTOME hail from the UK, exist since January 2000, and what their "The Art of Dying" CD has for you is 10 tracks of Core / Thrash sounding wild enough that to swirl in the mosh pit your grandmothers event! Very good start, I believe the SHIZTOME have turned a lot of heads, while having opened for bands like DEFENESTRATION, BRUTAL DELUXE, BREED 77 and so on!

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

## EVOHE

"Tellus Mater" CD  
OAKEN SHIELD

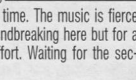
"Tellus Mater" is the first CD of the French Death / Black Metal act EVOHE. There are Death Metal riffs, blasting drums, screaming, guttural and clean vocals. The sound of the record is good and raw at the same time. The music is fierce and aggressive. There's nothing groundbreaking here but for a debut "Tellus Mater" is a decent effort. Waiting for the second one...

Tsvetan Rachev.....6.5

## OPERA IX

"Anphisbena" CD  
AVANTGARDE MUSIC

To anyone familiar with the extreme music scene from the last 10 years the name OPERA IX rings a bell. After the departure of the emblematic frontwoman Cadaveria, the "Opera" faced the challenge to prove that the line-up changes haven't been fatal. With a new vocalist (male one) OPERA IX released the "Anphisbena" CD. The dark symphonic Black Metal sound from the previous releases is here again with folk melodies combined with the harsh riffs. The keyboards are the most powerful instrument creating majestic atmosphere and enchanting melodies. The tempo is varying from slow to grinding and above that is a convincing Death Metal vocal. There are two pure folk songs ("In Hoc Signo Sanguinis" and "Scell Lem Duibh"), the others are majestic symphonic Metal compositions. "Anphisbena" ends with a cover of "One Rode to



Asa Bay" of the mighty BATHORY - it's even better than the original! So OPERA IX are back again with a strong album that won't leave disappointed the fans of the band.

Tsvetan Rachev.....8.0

## AD HOMINEM

"Climax of Hatred" CD  
AVANTGARDE MUSIC

This project was born in 1998. Its creator is Kaiser Wodhanas (also involved in THE CALL, ERADICATION, ANTITHEOS, OMNES AD UNUM), who uses the help of different musicians for the studio records and live shows (in the present album this is Altar ... drums session & arrangements). This is the third full-length album of AD HOMINEM. The inhuman messages go to us under the form of brutal, crushing, powerful and killing Black Metal that passes in straightforward Black / Death attacks at some moments. The aggression here is unlimited and strikes the backs of the weak and unworthy like a fire lash! Hate, genocide, death... to all!

Stefan Stefanov.....8.0

## VINTERIKET

"Der Letzte Winter ... Der Ewigkeit Entgegen" CD  
FLOOD THE EARTH

Strange, after the obvious dives in the freezing, desolation-emitting atmospheres of the "Lichtschiefer" CD first, "Der Letzte Winter..." (that actually appeared a previous VINTERIKET album) somewhat made me feel like watching a 60-year old woman's features which, despite of the irrevocable scars of Time, still give the clue of the beauty they were known for around 30 years ago... In other words, one can still enjoy the grandeur woven by coldly reticent synth melodies, but the Spell is actually gone forever. What I mean is that the beautiful Atmospheric passages here have been 'enriched' with hyper standard Black Metal lines. Bad idea!

Vanya Marinova.....7.0

## OBTEST

"Jis Kartos I Karta" CD  
LEDO TAKAS

The Lithuanian heathen heroes OBTEST are back again, this time with their third album, "Jis Kartos I Karta" (in translation "From Generation to Generation"). Wonderful album and talented musicians! A feeling for endless riding will possess you, while you are listening to it. Technical and fast rhythm section combined with killer Black / Heavy riffs. And after all that there is one grumpy and powerful vocal, which sounds like an old Russian Thrash band from the 80's! I listened to this album many times and still keep doing that with a great dose of pleasure. I can say it will impress all the fans of Pagan / Heathen Metal.

Stefan Stefanov.....9.5

## MELANCOLIA ESTATICA

"Same" CD

AETERNITAS TENEBRAUM MUSIC FOUNDATION

This is the first ever release from MELANCOLIA ESTATICA, and what you should expect here is 4 tracks where mid 90's Black Metal outbursts meet saturnine Doom passages. These guys have obviously done their best in sounding depressively withdrawn ... the atmosphere that their release spreads will have certainly attracted many, but I personally came long ago to the conclusion that it is quite seldom when Darkness chooses to speak through Metal music... Good start of MELANCOLIA ESTATICA anyway.

Vanya Marinova.....7.0

## BLOODSRIIT

"Helveteshymner" CD  
OAKEN SHIELD

"Helveteshymner" exhales evil and darkness! It's time for our souls to burn in the flames, while listening to these 9 songs. Through their third classic Black Metal production BLOODSRIIT unleash the dark powers from ice and snow covered Sweden. This uncompromising album has been recorded in Soundlab studio with Mieszko Talarczyk (R.I.P.) as an engineer. BLOODSRIIT pay a tribute to CANDLEMASS ... the last but one track "Solitude" is a spectacular cover.

Stefan Stefanov.....7.0

## CANAAN

"The Unsaid Words" CD  
EIBON Records

"The Unsaid Words" (the 5th long player of Italy's CANAAN as yet) turned out to be dealing with around 70 min of deliberately dismal Doom Metal passages crossed by obscure Ambient moods here and there. Pretending to shine with nothing specific, the CANAAN members' latest creation is simply meant to encourage the listener to sit back and let mellow oblivion do the rest of the job. The very CD cover additionally urges you on abstracting yourself from the clamour mundane for a while.

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

## UNCHOSEN

"Billie Jean" MCD  
CASSET MUSIC

This is that "Billie Jean" song, yeah. The Michael Jackson hit from the 80s. I am not into cover versions lately, but still I cannot deny that UNCHOSEN have done quite a decent job here. The track is followed by 2 more songs, namely "D. O. A." and "Deathspell" which catch the ear with their mid-paced, ponderous melodic Rock. As I could read from the info sheet, "Billie Jean" has been followed up by a full-length in October 2005. Judging from what I heard from the single, I wouldn't mind hearing the album as well!

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

## NIGHTMARE VISIONS

"VIII" CD  
CASSET MUSIC

NIGHTMARE VISIONS was the serial unknown band to me. It is spoken this is the third album, but its length is under 30 minutes, which makes me believe it is an MCD. But I may be wrong. "VIII" consists only of 4 songs which immediately snatched my attention. Three Englishmen with talent and skills succeeded in creating something important ... Melodic Dark / Death Metal of a high class. The tracks sound mighty and have unique emotional charge in themselves. Definitely a good strike and no doubt good realization! NIGHTMARE VISIONS ... remember that name!

Stefan Stefanov.....8.5

## LIFEND

"Innerscars" CD  
CRUZ DEL SUR

LIFEND came from Italy and has been created in '99. This is their first studio album, which is a mixture between Atmospheric / Electro / Gothic Metal. The great variety of vocal parts is at hand ... angry roaring mixes with constantly clean male and female verbiages. It's clear that "Innerscars" is a modernistic Metal album.

Stefan Stefanov.....6.0

## INCRIMINATED

"Promise of Worse to Come" CD  
DISPLEASED

This Finnish act was born in 1997 and their discography so far features several split releases and EPs, as well as 3 full-lengths. "Promise of Worse to Come", INCRIMINATED's latest creation, is the first ever record that I'm hearing from them and, although it turned out to have captured a lot of the 80's vibes, it left me uninterested due to its total lack of FEELING. The guys have attempted reviving the cryptic HELHAMMER ambiances and they have eventually made it to the line where one could faultlessly recognize which their inspiration source was and that's all. An empty Finlandia bottle.

Vanya Marinova.....6.5

## KILL

"Horned Holocaust" CD  
INVICTUS

"Horned Holocaust" was released in 2002 on an LP format. Some time after that the album was released on CD from the Irish label INVICTUS PRODUCTIONS. KILL... Satan makes a grab for our souls again through this primitive and basic Black Metal. The three Swedish usurpers don't search complexity and variety in their music ... it's clean but somehow malicious and ugly. This is a Satanic propaganda ... in its purest form!

Stefan Stefanov.....6.5

## INFERNUM

"Farewell" CD  
NO COLOURS

The second album of this project of Capricornus and Robert "Rob Darken" Fudali is not titled so just like that. As written on cover of the promo CD I got, this is the last album INFERNUM comes up with, and I personally respect that decision. One should know when to stop, in order to prevent the disgraceful fall in the obsolescence pit. And in this very case we have the chance to witness a withdrawal with DIGNITY expressed in 5 tracks of epically sombre Black Metal having captured a lot of GRAVELAND's dismal vibes, without to sound like pathetic adjuncts at the same time.

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

## NOKTURNAL MORTUM

"Weltanschauung" CD  
NO COLOURS

You can hear the clash of swords on the pagan fronts again ... here comes the new attack of the Slavic horde NOKTURNAL MORTUM! Fourth full-length strike for Knjaz Vargoth and his company. The musical searching of this Ukrainian Folk / Symphonic Black Metal phenomenon still keeps going. Old and authentic instruments were used for the ancient folklore melodies: telynya, weelyre, sopilka etc. 3 songs from the EP "The Taste of Victory" (2003) are here in "Weltanschauung". A Slavic version of this album is released by ORIANA / KOLAVOROT (Knjaz Vargoth's label). Leaving good impressions from the classics like "Goathorns" and "Nechrist" I dare to say that NOKTURNAL MORTUM are doing well this way, even excellent!

Stefan Stefanov.....9.0

## FR8

"In Cold Blood" CD  
CASSET MUSIC

What I heard here was not that bad ... "In Cold Blood", the debut of Northeast's FR8, features 7 tracks standing out for their thick, rumbling riffs backed up by heavily smashing drums and ultimately laced with vocals belching bitter hostility. Along with that, the material is notable for its great production, and it is Dan Turner (NAPALM DEATH, CRADLE OF FILTH) who should be praised here. Most admirers of bands like PANTERA, (later) SEPULTURA or MEGADETH would certainly enjoy "In Cold Blood".

Vanya Marinova.....7.0

## CHAIN COLLECTOR

"The Masquerade" CD  
SOUND RIOT

Debut for CHAIN COLLECTOR. In the lines of this young Norwegian band (formed in 2003) there take part former and present members of known names like GREEN CARNATION, IN

## INFERNAL HATE

"Infernal Hate" Demo CD-R  
Self Released

I'm not sure exactly how many bands with the name of INFERNAL HATE exist, but this demo has been sent from Spain's INFERNAL HATE. 4 tracks of heavy Death Metal reminding of the early BOLT THROWER era. Obviously the guys are still trying to find their own style, at most places the music is very numb, the guitar riffs are unvaried and there aren't good and memorable ideas. The technical skills need improvement. This demo record, for me especially, shows a good potential but it also shows that the guys need more time to make their music more remarkable and original. This is just the beginning, I'm sure their next demo will be better. For more info about this Spanish outfit write to: [mspijose@yahoo.es](mailto:mspijose@yahoo.es)

Chavdar Tzachkov

## ANGELCRYPT

"From the Abyss to Glory" Promo CD-R  
Self Released

I have no particular remarks here when it comes to pointing out any regarding the members' skill stage, the very album layout, etc. The problem is elsewhere ... I am not into Power / Progressive stuff. But if you are, check Malta's ANGELCRYPT out. "From the Abyss to Glory" is the band's 1st CD and it features a video of the second track "The Fall", wallpapers and more. Website: <http://angelcrypt.com>

Vanya Marinova

## DIAMANTHAN

"The Infinite Descend" Promo CD-R  
Self Released

We have got this release as a lousy CD-R with a Xeroxed cover without additional info. Maybe it is a promo CD, or it has been released on vinyl or regular CD. Who knows?! Anyway, the CD-R contains of 8 tracks good Dark Death / Thrash with a very heavy hellish sound. There is good variety of slow, mid-tempo and fast passages but at places the tracks are a little chaotic, even I heard some dissonance. The sound quality for a promo CD-R is very good, and with an additional mastering it could be even suitable for a regular CD release. If you want to get this record write to: [sgl66@yahoo.com](mailto:sgl66@yahoo.com)

Chavdar Tzachkov

## HELL

"Promo 2005" Promo CD-R  
POSER HUNTER Records

HELL are from Hungary and their 2-song promo (limited to 100 copies) would certainly appeal to most fervent hunters for totally Underground material dealing with early 90's inspired, unpolished Black Metal! I personally enjoyed the record A LOT, as this is my favourite sound when it comes to 2nd Wave BM stuff, less is MORE! Contact: [flamesofhell@vivaldi.hu](mailto:flamesofhell@vivaldi.hu)

Vanya Marinova

## V / A

"Horrific Liquescent Aftermath" MC  
LIFE FLUID

Why am I having the feeling that I have reviewed this compilation tape before...? Anyways, I'm right now too lazy for checking out the previous Brutalica issues for that, I will only say that I really have no idea of why Chavdar sent "Horrific Liquescent Aftermath" to me, since I've never been a Grind Core admirer! Limited to 1000 copies (mine is... 666), this cassette would most certainly appeal to any zealous collector of stuff referred to the genre mentioned above, and the artists directly responsible for these 90 minutes of sonic slaughter are as follows: ABORTED, MISCREATION, GOREOPSY, GETTEBONG, IINHUME, INSTINAL DISGORGE, NECROPHAGIST, BASTARD SAINTS, FADHAT, WORMED, CENOTAPH, M.S.I., SADISTS, ATAVIS, BRODEQUIN, HUMAN MINCER, OMNIUM GATHERUM, DEATHVOMIT, DICHOTIC, NOISM, SCRAMBLED DEFUNCTS, INTENSE HAMMER RAGE, ALIENATION MENTAL, MACHETAZO, DEVYATED SYMPHONY, DEEP RED, EXCARNATED, BILE, SLEAZO, NEFAS and EXCRUCIATE. Website: <http://www.lifefluid.com>

Vanya Marinova

## MARLEBOG

"Forestheard" MC  
KARPATIA PRODUCTIONS

Well, this is not something that we haven't heard before, but at least these Hungarians sound like they are totally devoted to what they've been doing for a while, namely playing mid 90's inspired Black Metal. These 6 tracks (the last 2 obscure, Ambient-influenced instrumentals) brought me back in '94 when some magic in the air could be felt, probably because BM admirers in my hometown were much fewer at the time. It is absolutely inadvisable "Forestheard" to be applied as a frivolous jamboree sonic background.

Website: <http://www.geocities.com/marleboginfo>

Vanya Marinova

## NIHILISTIKRYPT

"Required Sacrifices" Demo CD  
Self Released

I have never felt that deeply about Death Metal, but if you do, check NIHILISTIKRYPT out! What I will only say is that these Estonians sound like they know what they are doing and gather at their rehearsal place far from seldom. Website: [www.nihilistikrypt.net](http://www.nihilistikrypt.net)

Vanya Marinova

## DODSFERD

"Kruzifixion of Human Disgust" Demo Tape  
Self Released

Greece's DODSFERD exists since 2001 and "Kruzifixion..." is the first ever recording that Wrath (all instruments) comes up with. What the guys has for you is four tracks + 2 bonus ones, namely a live version of the title track and a live cover of BURZUM's "War". Now that I have mentioned which band Wrath pays a tribute to, I doubt that you will be surprised if I tell you that DODSFERD is early 90's BM oriented. Great start anyway, especially if we take into account that we speak of a FIRST demo from a ONE-MAN act! Contact: [ins\\_dodsferrd@yahoo.gr](mailto:ins_dodsferrd@yahoo.gr)

Vanya Marinova



THE WOODS, NEON GOD, APOSTASY, CARPATHIAN FOREST, etc. The main goal here is to play melodic Death Metal which transforms into pure Heavy Metal in some places. Good sound and modern eyesight for the music. It's not for my deaf ears which like different performances, ha-ha... The fans of IN FLAMES would surely like CHAIN COLLECTOR.  
Stefan Stefanov.....7.0

#### MY INSANITY

*"Scattered Soul Puzzle" CD*  
SEASON OF MIST  
Germany's MY INSANITY exists since '96 and "Scattered Soul Puzzle" is their third CD. Which left me far from enthusiastic, despite of the superlatives I read in the press release: that the band caught SAMAE's Xytras' attention in the very beginning, that the band has played live with acts like THERION, TIAMAT, LACUNA COIL and so on... Actually, such advertising approaches have never impressed me...when you shine with nothing, no lamps in the world can help you. MY INSANITY is another perfect example at that point. Unless you're into Goth / Metal that one might call unpretentious and that I personally call hyper standard and even a bit tedious.  
Vanya Marinova.....6.5

#### CATAMENIA

*"Winternight Tragedies" CD*  
MASCARE  
What else can we expect from CATAMENIA except a high-class melodic Black Metal? They still stay on the top and through all these years they succeeded to save their specific style by inserting some episodic new elements. The guitarist Riku Hopekoski is the only member left from the old staff. 6 albums for a ten-year existence of this Finnish band and always with the true presence of wolves on the artworks! The lake land covered in cold and lashed by furious winds makes praiseworthy musicians!  
Stefan Stefanov.....8.5

#### GAIA

*"The Final Question" MCD*  
Self Released  
This review was intended for the previous Brutalica issue, but there was no space left so I would at first like to thank GAIA's songstress Dominique Garrao for her patience. Otherwise, "The Final Question" is the first ever recording from this band from the US, and what the 3 tracks on the CD are about is Progressive / Death Metal reminding of AGHORA to a great extent. What I enjoyed here most was the guitar solos (Jean Luis Contreras) and the drum parts (Mark Mandel). Good beginning. Band website: <http://www.gaia.music.net>  
Vanya Marinova.....7.0

#### ORDO DRACONIS

*"Camera Obscura Part 2: A View With A Room" CD*  
OPUS MAGNUM Productions  
"Camera Obscura Part 2" continues and somehow is developing the musical tendencies, which started in the first part. Quite an innovative and crazy method in its base, this music is a strange sort of Symphonic Black Metal, although some call it Post-Black Metal. In this second part the musicians approach more experimentally and abnormally, when creating the six tracks. The border of genial madness has been reached, and this has opened new horizons raised by the striving to create something unseen, original and grandiose. In both parts of "Camera Obscura" there take part different artists from the musical circles like Martin Viehs (ENID) and Moritz Neuner (ATROCITY, ex-DORNEN-REICH, ex-ABIGOR). ORDO DRACONIS is a band with more than 10 years of history, and it will be spoken for its greatness from now on. This is not music for prejudiced people.  
Stefan Stefanov.....8.5

#### ECITON

*"Oppressed" CD*  
ADIPOCERE RECORDS  
As I could read in the bio of this Danish act, it was formed in 2000. "Oppressed" is their debut, as well as that the ECITON members have been involved in numerous bands before in the last 12 years. And I could definitely sense that the guys are far from devoid of routine, but calling their music MELODIC Death Metal, now this I could not accept!!! These dudes do play Death Metal, yeah, but I really wonder where the one who composed the ECITON info sheet found melodicness, if we bear in mind that the 8 tracks on "Oppressed" are notable for their extremely grinding riffs, thick sound and grunts sounding like coming from 3 feet below! The only reasonable explanation that I'm finding is that the guy must be a meanest Grind Core sounds admirer to call ECITON melodic... Otherwise, I do not tend to enjoy what the band has done as I've never been a diehard Death Metal fan. But if you are then check this CD out! What I can mention in ECITON's favour is that in 2003 they entered the Danish Melo-Death Metal Grand Prix (the biggest Scandinavian competition for unsigned bands) in 2003 and obtained the first place.  
Vanya Marinova.....7.0

#### SUN OF NOTHING

*"...And The Voices, Words, Faces..." CD*  
BLAST BEAT / DAMAGED Productions  
The album starts with 14 minutes of plain noise. And my finger jumped over the "next" button almost instantly. The rest has more music to be discussed. Think of a mixture of the scream-toy of bands singing, discordant music with elements of Grind, Death Metal and Noise / Industrial. I guess they call it "sludge". The raw recording adds more flavour,

more warmth and ear-comfort. You just have to skip the noise parts. Fans of GRIEF, BONGZILLA, MELVINS... take note.  
Ivailo Tonchev.....7.0

#### PANTHEIST

*"AMARITA" CD*  
FIREBOX  
20 years ago there was a certain hype to be fast. Nowadays it seems that things have gone just the opposite... bands try to be as slow as possible. It is the case here. PANTHEIST started again as a one-man project, but Kostas, the man behind PANTHEIST soon decided to relocate to UK, so he could rehearse and play with the other member. With the help of Andy and Mark of ESOTERIC, it soon became a "real band"...Teamed together, the 4 members created a real psych monster that is so slow, that if it was released on tape, I would have suspected the motors of my tape deck. Their dark funeral doom, slow and morbid, with some rare fast attacks, supported with the help of some dark synths is a real invitation to a different world. The journey lasts over 75 minutes and I guarantee our Universe will be different after you hear "Metanoia" ... the last track on this album. Very good album!  
Ivailo Tonchev.....9.0

#### ORDO DRACONIS

*"Camera Obscura Part 1: The Star Chamber Reviews" CD*  
OPUS MAGNUM Productions  
Strange differences and sub-styles have been taken roots in Black Metal. Now, this is not whatever it may be, but Post-Black Metal. Well, I will swallow these twisted definitions and I will tell you that the Dutch men from ORDO DRACONIS matched very avantgardely and ambitiously in recording the two albums with a length of less than 40 minutes each, united by the common title "Camera Obscura". This first part contains seven songs woven by symphonic madness, creative innovation and mighty Black Metal. Nothing matching with their previous album "The Wing & the Burden" (2001), which was a Symphonic Black Metal one but without such an extravagant enthusiasm and chaotic crossing of the borders of numerous different styles. Maybe the guilt for this strange evolution in ORDO DRACONIS is due to some changes in the line-up, which came the last few years. The new vocalist in the face of Tyrann (also in VINDSVALD) is more than brilliant! This first part in fact is a conceptual album, inspired from the epic play "Lucifer" by the famous Dutch playwright "Vondel". Finally, I can say this is a powerful album of a great crazy band in the flower of its constructive power.  
Stefan Stefanov.....8.5

#### TAAKE

*"Doedskvad" CD*  
DARK ESSENCE Records  
TAAKE (in translation "fog") is a Norwegian band with a cult status in the Black Metal circles. In the band's structure there take Doedsjarl Hoest (vocals, guitar), Mord (drums), Lava (bass, guitar, vocals) and C.Corax (guitar). "Doedskvad" is here to finish the trilogy, started in '99 with "Nattestid...", then with "...Bjoergvin..." (2002). This new album doesn't need superfluous descriptions, the next four words are enough: True Norwegian Black Metal! Like guest musicians there take part Taipan (ORCUSTUS), Nattestrost (CARPATHIAN FOREST) and Nordavind (ex-CARPATHIAN FOREST).  
Stefan Stefanov.....8.0

#### CYNICAL BASTARD / UNFORMED / GASTRICK BURST

*"Brutal Junkies ... 3 way Split" CD*  
SKULL FUCKED Productions  
What we have here is a Grind Core split with 3 bands. CYNICAL BASTARD crash the party with 5 Death / Grind tracks. UNFORMED go ahead with 10 violent Noise / Grind attacks, lyrically enriched with song titles like "Cum Eating Bitches from Outer Space". GASTRICK BURST do 8 tracks of funny growling Grind Core. Machine-gun styled drums and fast attacks is what you can find here on this CD. Nothing new or original, just pure and plain fun... I guess it even stops being funny at a certain point...  
Ivailo Tonchev.....5.0

#### TENEBRAE IN PERPETUUM

*"Antico Misticismo" CD*  
DEBEMUR MORI Productions  
This is the second full-length from TENEBRAE IN PERPETUUM (founded in 2001) and what I'm hearing from these 7 tracks is far from bad! What we have here is cold, reticent Black Metal in the early 90's vein. All in all, these Italians have come up with nothing unheard before, but they have compensated that generously with a great deal of enthusiasm. I believe that "Antico Misticismo" would appeal to many!  
Vanya Marinova.....7.5

#### THARAPHITA

*"Primal Force" CD*  
NAILBOARD Records  
After LOITS I have again the luck and the pleasure to listen to another Estonian band from a high class. A powerful new album, which keeps THARAPHITA to one of the lead places in the Baltic region. "Primal Force" is a unique mixture of Black and Heavy Metal. The atmosphere of the album is dark and at the same time epic. Even such words aren't enough to describe the style of this band with ten years of history. The vocals sound powerful, the same is valid for the guitars. Intriguing music, at least for me. I think that THARAPHITA deserve the listening.  
Stefan Stefanov.....8.5

#### HAEMOTH

*"Kontamination" MCD*  
DEBEMUR MORI Productions  
The HAEMOTH discography proved to feature a bunch of demos, promo tapes, split releases, 2 full-lengths and now this MCD. Starting with an ominous intro, it then literally bursts into total Black Metal tempest maliciously structured by extremely harsh riffs, relentlessly impaling drums and bitterly hostile vociferations. Additionally, one can discern the presence of coldly mechanized hate in between the tracks. Love the CD or hate it, no middle points!  
Vanya Marinova.....8.0

#### FOREST OF SHADOWS

*"Departure" CD*  
FIREDOOM MUSIC  
This project starts existing somewhere in '97 in Stockholm, Sweden. The main and one person here is Niclas Frohagen (all instruments, composition, recording & mixing), though through the years there were joins and leavings of other members. I liked the melodic Doom Metal that FOREST OF SHADOWS offers. I can even say it's quite a good album in comparison to many bands which create it in that ways. The songs are slow, typically for that style, and they are filled with beautiful guitar harmonies, melancholic and calm vocals, passing in angry bawls here and there. Other instruments were used here and they complete the whole atmosphere in a suitable way...djembe, rhodes, piano, mellotrons. Good start with this debut album which is more than man can think from the first look.  
Stefan Stefanov.....9.0

#### MASTIC SCUM

*"Mind" CD*  
CUGEL AGENCY  
The third album of the band, 13 tracks and a video clip and surely the best one until now. Imagine fast old school Death Metal Core, very much into the vein of stuff like REPULSION or any of the early ERACHE bands. And this is not just some 30 minutes of hyper-sonic grind massacre, but tight and well-composed/played stuff, with a lot of catchy breaks and unexpected noise attacks. All the tracks have interesting intros and the video is awesome! It is a band with a long-time tradition, so let's pay some attention to this! I know it is hard to do something unique, but this stuff rocks.  
Ivailo Tonchev.....7.0

#### AES DANA

*"Formors" CD*  
OAKEN SHIELD  
I found the Celtic Black Metal first with CRUACHAN ("Tuatha Na Gael") and after that I heard HEOL TELWEN ("Mor Braz"). Now, the lucky chance met me with the French AES DANA... indisputable proof that this sub-genre lives its own life. "Formors" is one perfect album which sounds originally and from the heart. Epic Celtic melodies played with acoustic guitar that Tin Wistle and Bombarde are combining with the fast and full of rage Black Metal passages in their excellent way. The eight songs are bursting with energy which transfers to the listener.  
Stefan Stefanov.....8.0

#### GRAVELAND

*"Fire Chariot of Destruction" CD*  
NO COLOURS  
As I compare GRAVELAND's latest offering to their previous "Dawn of Iron Blades", the latter release seems to sound rather poorer! Sensibly longer, the new 8 tracks from these Epic Black Metalers from Poland also shine with a wider spectrum of ideas and way more impacting ambiences. On the inspiration level, GRAVELAND remain defiantly true to their passion for reviving times when nowadays half-forgotten heroes still walked the earth...  
Vanya Marinova.....8.0

#### ANAL VOMIT

*"Demonic Flagellations" CD*  
DISPLEASED  
This album sounds like a logical extension of "Bestial Devastation" of SEPULTURA. There is something from SARCOFAGO in it too. The beginning of this satanic trip is early in '92 in Lima, Peru. After so many years after many demos and splits released here comes the debut album. And it sounds really malicious, demonic and aggressive. The torture and the possession of our souls comes under the form of fast and barbarian oldschool Black / Death Metal. The pervers artwork tells well about the contents of this CD. ANAL VOMIT is an extreme terroristic Underground act! CD and LP versions of this album come with different covers of SEPULTURA, accordingly "Antichrist" and "Troops of Doom".  
Stefan Stefanov.....7.5

#### VOCIFERIAN

*"Universal Hate Decades Ultimatum" CD*  
INFERNUS REX  
The Infernus Rex have portrayed this release as "violent Black / Death influences by REVENGE, BESTIAL WARLUST and old IMPALED NAZARENE", but it eventually turned out that Lord Genocide, the only member of VOCIFERIAN (France), has involved nothing but an unbelievable hotch-potch of poor riffs and drumming that would certainly bring your hangover back even if you have stayed totally clean 1 whole week after that! It is hard to believe that "Universal Hate Decades Ultimatum" is VOCIFERIAN's third full-length already: this guy sounds like he has started his baby steps as a musician barely last year...  
Vanya Marinova.....3.0

#### DRUDKH

*"Lebedynyi Shlyakh" CD*  
SUPERNAL MUSIC  
New album of this Ukrainian act. It is speaking of pagan Black Metal. DRUDKH attack with the cold speed of a cutting up sword... an oldschool whirlwind from rasping guitars, angry and gloomy vocals... Sometimes you can find episodic folk moments sneaking, which are giving to this album one indefinable, melancholic epic sound. The lyrics are taken from the poetry of Taras Shevchenko (1814-1861), a great Ukrainian thinker and patriot.  
Stefan Stefanov.....7.5

#### FAR BEYOND

*"An Angel's Requiem" CD*  
SOURCE OF DELUGE Records  
Despite of my huge respect for one-man bands in general, I will have to say that FAR BEYOND's Guardian left me far from intrigued with his debut! It's just that adjusting the "melodic" term to Black Metal is something that I'll maybe never agree with! Many will most certainly like "An Angel's Requiem" for its take-me-on-the-wings-of-night-and-show-me-the-truth atmosphere though. I see darkness in music elsewhere.  
Vanya Marinova.....5.0

#### MOONSORROW

*"Versakaet" CD*  
SPIKEFARM  
"Versakaet" marks the band's tenth anniversary and it's these Finnish pagans' fourth album. MOONSORROW have created something worth again and that makes them one of the leaders of the Extreme Scene. Once more you can hear the well-known Viking / Black Metal coming with rich folk influences. Quite a lot of rage, darkness and nostalgia breathe from the five tracks full of incredible epics. Five guest musicians take part in this titanic and mighty opus. The final result is amazing!  
Stefan Stefanov.....9.5

#### HUMAN GROUND

*"Human Ground" CD*  
NAILBOARD Records  
I will have to admit that the Estonian bands I'm aware of are quite few. This one, at any case, must have turned a lot of heads in May 2005, when its debut CD has been unleashed! What HUMAN GROUND has for you is 12 tracks of tight, solid Death Metal in the Swedish vein aesthetically diversified by entrancingly melancholic guitar tunes woven here and there. Each single riff and drum hit is in its proper place, and one can't help thinking that Valm and Co are self-reliant enough that not to feel the desperate necessity of attracting the masses' attention with cheap tricks on the performance level. Way to go!  
Vanya Marinova.....8.0

#### GRAVE FLOWERS

*"Incarnated Sorrows" CD*  
REBOX  
After several demos and an album in 1999, the new material of GRAVE FLOWERS is here to storm your heart. I would also mention that the storm will be long and rainy, melancholic and sad... I can't keep wondering how sophisticated a "one man band" can be sometimes. This time it includes Jason Janson as a guitar player and also two other session musicians and real drums... this time! Recorded at the Speedball Studio in their home town, 11 tracks for 2 weeks. Gothic / Doom Metal, with a certain alternative touch, that makes it sound so smooth and gentle. I would dare to mention HIM, though they went a bit too poppy. Matte Anderson, the guy behind the project, actually sings and his voice blends fantastically with the keyboard ridden melody. The roar of the guitars is so soft and it makes this sound so personal and close to me. An excellent album! The cover for COUNT RAVEN is sadly not included in the promo-version. But I have no doubts for it!  
Ivailo Tonchev.....9.0

#### PSYCHOPUNCH

*"Kamikaze Love Reducer" CD*  
SILVERDUST  
After so many extreme Death Metal releases it is time for some funny Punk. If you haven't heard the name of PSYCHOPUNCH before this doesn't mean that they are newcomers, actually "Kamikaze Love Reducer" is their fifth album so far and it is obvious that the guys are good musicians. They define their style as Punk Rock'n'Roll and I can accept this but can also mention that their music has a great influence from the 80's US Hard Rock wave, especially the ballad "When This World Is Dying" (good melodies, guys). As a whole the music of PSYCHOPUNCH isn't complex or innovative but it is emotional and has very nice and memorable melodies. I forgot to mention that PSYCHOPUNCH are from Sweden (initially I thought they are from the States, where this kind of music is very popular). The fact that they have taken part in major festivals such as Waken and Summer Breeze speaks enough of the reputation of PSYCHOPUNCH. Except the above mentioned ballad, a good impression makes to me the tracks "On the Stereo" (a furious song), "Someone Like You", "The Black River Song"...  
Chavdar Tzachkov.....7.5

#### EXCALION

*"Primal Exhale" CD*  
SOUND RIOT  
EXCALION have dared to do the bravest of all experiments... to explore the deepest clichés of 80's Metal / Hard Rock and to try to sell them again, this time in 2005. Believe me, nos-



taig tears filled up my eyes when I heard the first seconds. Actually, it is quite nice and a real trip back to the roots of Power Metal for some Finnish lads. And neither of them seems older than 25... Very melodic and well-played stuff, with some Malmsteen-like guitar passages from time to time. Go ahead, dudes! It doesn't matter that I've heard it all before, it is a kind of music I like.

Ivalo Tonchev.....5,0

## AARNI

*"Bahos" CD*  
FREEDOM  
It is not your typical Doom Metal band. Contrary to what I read while browsing the web for AARNI, I think there is a lot of 60s psychedelia / weirdness in them. Long and heavy tracks, mostly instrumental, as the vocal passages are not that common. "Quinotaurus" actually reminded me of SIMON AND GARFUNKEL at their best, just the beginning of the song. The music sounds acoustic and at the same time, very heavy and psychic. It is a strange act, I must confess. But I guess that here "strange" stands for original... If you are looking for the perfect mixture of metal and the rawest 60s psych/prog, this one is for you... If you are afraid to experiment with your taste, just read the multiple choice test in the booklet. Soon you will play the CD too, with a smile on your face.

Ivalo Tonchev.....9,0

## TOTAL DEVASTATION

*"Reclusion" CD*  
FREBOX  
Hm, it is hard to write something about this album of this Finnish band and to be sure that you will understand it correctly. Because "Reclusion" is an amalgam of different Metal styles (Death, Thrash, HC, etc) and is woven with some untypical elements, atmospheric parts and even Jazz Rock elements. Albums like this must be heard, it is hard to be described, because there are so many innovative elements. Some tracks are in mid-tempo with quite complex structures and very technical performances. Others are with vehement speed attacks alternating with slow atmospheric synth passages. Quite experimental and innovative I may say. Definitely this album pleasantly surprised me very much and I will do my best to do an interview with the guys for the next issue. Such innovative and original bands must be supported as much as possible!!!

Chavdar Tzachkov.....8,5

## THE MONOLITH DEATHCULT

*"The White Crematorium" CD*  
KARMEGODON MEDIA  
It is time for quality Death Metal. THE MONOLITH DEATHCULT is from east Holland and as far as I know this is their second album. The band has been created by ex-members of ALTAR and DEAD HEAD, I know they are old and very mature bands, so it is not a surprise for me the high level of THE MONOLITH DEATHCULT. What we have here are 9 intense & brutal Death Metal opuses performed & recorded perfectly. The drums speed is incredible, I may say the drummer is phenomenal in his fast beats. The same could be said for the other members, the catchy guitar riffs and the triple vocal attacks would be a real pleasure for every brutal Death Metal connoisseur. I also discovered some innovative atmospheric elements which make the music really enigmatic. It is good to listen "The White Crematorium" in the dark; believe me, this will increase the pleasure of this quality and very powerful Death Metal album. Fans of MORBID ANGEL, NILE or IMMOLATION won't remain unsatisfied.

Chavdar Tzachkov.....8,0

## THRONAR

*"Far Death And Glory" CD*  
SEVEN KINGDOMS  
Lyrical it is just a MANOWAR rip-off, visually the guys have the same masculine bodies. This proves that Metal and fitness actually go hand in hand. Nathalia, the keyboard player, has a great body and one of the most beautiful faces I've seen so far in my involvement with Brutalica... Actually, this album is like an epic tale of a history that never happened. Much more complicated than MANOWAR, in a completely different approach. Their brand of Black Metal doesn't rely on hyper-fast tracks, though they are present too. The mid-tempo epic sound fits perfectly the well-hidden keyboards.

It is an album that can be read and listened at the same time. A pleasant thing to do, as I have always loved historical books! The music suits the purpose too! And cheers to Nathalia, he-he!

Ivalo Tonchev.....7,0

## MACHETAZO

*"Sinfonías Del Terror Ciego" CD*  
ZORBACK  
At the first hearing the deaf sound makes an unpleasant impression, I don't know where MACHETAZO have recorded this album but for example their first album "Came de Cementerio" sounded much better. Anyway, stylistically "Sinfonías Del Terror Ciego" is the same ultra-speed Grind assault influenced from bands such as TERRORIZER, REPULSION, CARCASS, and a whole battalion with similar artists. Again almost every track begins with a sample from a movie, mostly in Spanish language. The Grind parts are made very well, with an incredible and crushing speed. The vocals are horror-like guttural, again alternating with some "light" ones. What to say about the lyrics: you don't need to be clever like Einstein to guess what the topics in them are about. Musically



not a bad album but the production sucks!  
Chavdar Tzachkov.....6,0

## GRENOUER

*"Try" MCD*  
SIBERIAN LEAGUE  
Just 3 tracks of machine-driven Metal from Russia. You can see / hear traces of MACHINEHEAD, FEAR FACTORY. This mini MCD is mixed by the sound-producer of CHILDREN OF BODOM Anssi Kippo. Obviously a new direction towards more unexplored territories for the Death Metal lads from GRENOUER. Good stuff and I hope this will open the doors of the Western market for this Russian Metal band that has existed since 1992.

Ivalo Tonchev.....6,0

## ISACAARUM

*"Shibari Kata and Other Practices" CD*  
OBSCENE  
The most bizarre Czech band is here with their brand new opus. The beginning was expected...it is the track named "Spermivore", ha, ha. The track is typical for ISACAARUM and it does imply what to expect next. Further the things go the same way, but I can't explain to myself why the tempo at places reminds me of MINISTRY? Anyway, if you expect wild Grind parts you will have them in most of the tracks but the good thing here is that the tracks are more varied, it is not only the pure bestial, monotonous tempo. Some psychos won't like this but there are so fucking monotonous releases nowadays. Again there is also a good variety of vocal parts, some screaming, other guttural, something that couldn't surprise me since the early works of NAPALM DEATH. The production and sound quality is on a decent level, nothing exceptional at all, but quite good for handbanging at some Metal party.

Chavdar Tzachkov.....7,0

## ADOLF SATAN

*"Adolf Satan" CD*  
BESTIAL ONSLAUGHT  
Formed by guys with past careers in bands like ANAL CUNT, UPSIDEOWN CROSS, KILSLUG, this band is here to break the sonic barriers. It is what happens after a band like A.C. tries to play some 70's fuelled BLACK SABBATH / HELL HAMMER Doom Metal. It is noisy, it is chaotic, it is the stuff that will tear your ear membranes to pieces. If you are looking for something doomy, do not try it. You won't find any melancholy, just "antisocial music, played by scumbags, for scumbags"...Remember GG Allin?

Ivalo Tonchev.....5,0

## MINISTRY

*"Rio Grande Blood" CD*  
13TH PLANET Records  
Messages for anarchy, peace (featured in the very logo of MINISTRY), extremely left-wing ideas and militarism...all this formed with the methods of the industrialized Speed / Thrash Metal. It sounds rather complicated, but at least much more Metal than the latest solo appearance of the vocalist / programmer / guitarist AJ Jorgensen with REVOLTING COCKS "...Cocked & Loaded". Grinding electronic rhythms and heavy guitar riffs are the background for anti-political proclamations in "Rio Grande Blood" (whatever that title may mean). Main lyrical anti-hero and face on the cover is George Bush Junior presented as a holy martyr having a bath in an oil barrel against the background of an oil field assailed by an American Stealth chaser. The Bush family is not under the MINISTRY attacks for the first time...back in 1992 AJ Jorgensen and Co attacked G. Bush Senior, his administration and the Republican Party. But why should we care about it? The lyrical contents is obviously meant for the unsatisfied with the USA government Americans and all those who have become one with what currently is going on...for that very reason, the album message is directly outspoken. What is more important for us is the music, and it is not that diverse...fast riffs, ornate electronic beats and computer work is what one can hear in each single track. As a whole, "Rio Grande Blood" would rather fit a cyber-post-Goth club like "Hell" in "The Matrix - Revolution".

Mort.....5,0

## FONY

*"Live At The Harlequin" CD*  
COPRO  
Who the hell are FONY? It appears that this is their 5th album that comes with a free DVD with their videos and some extras. Good production for some U2 type of a band that has some slight guitar edges that can be mixed with an attempt to make some Nu Metal. Very boring!

Ivalo Tonchev.....1,0

## UHRILEHTO

*"Ihmisiivän Eliitti" CD*  
SCHWARZDORN Production  
Finnish Black Metal on a very good level. This was my first impression after I heard the 9 tracks. It is obvious that the band members are well matured with good performance skills, with aspiration to make more improvisations and even experiments, which make the music quite interesting for the listener. The previous album of UHRILEHTO had a very bad sounding but this one is with incomparably better sound, sound with a great density and power. The way it should be for an extreme Black Metal band, right? The most interesting for me was the last track (all tracks are written in Finnish), it is almost 14 min long and has a structure somehow untypical

for the genre, for beginning with non-rhythmic tempo, flavoured with some mystic voices and good atmosphere. Nice experimental track, definitely you must hear it. You can taste the music of UHRILEHTO by hearing their track included in the CD Sampler and also read the interview with them.

Chavdar Tzachkov.....7,5

## SCREAMIN' DAEMON

*"The Decline of English Murder" CD*  
IBD Records  
Made as a tribute to all the British murderers and psychos known to law, police and science, SCREAMIN' DAEMON's first album is 13 tracks full of musical and verbal aggression...The promo sheet says "Black Metal". This sums up the music, but you can think of some really varied stuff, with influences from Grind Core up to Black Metal and even some KING DIAMOND material... I guess this is a kind of a joke band, but even if so, the music doesn't inspire anything with me. Even the distorted version of "What Shall We Do With The Drunken Sailor" is not a good pick.

Ivalo Tonchev.....6,0

## VILE

*"The New Age of Chaos" CD*  
LISTENABLE  
When I put this CD into my new Onkyo (please don't tell me I'm a braggart, ha-ha...) I expected to hear raging brutal Death Metal with quite monotonous tracks, but I was pleasantly surprised to hear something completely different. "The New Age of Chaos" of course is a brutal Death Metal album but it has been made with a great dose of diversity and musical experimentalism. The 9 tracks can be described as intelligently composed Death Metal tunes with a lot of tempo changes, with alternating bestial sweeping parts with mid-tempo melodic parts. The sound is also a little bit softened, if compared to their previous albums. But all this I found quite positive...the album is not only bestial monotonous brutality...it has a very charismatic aura, the instruments are very clear, especially the bass guitar, the only thing that I didn't like was the sounding of the drums in the fast parts, but it is my opinion, if you are looking for non-standard Death Metal go to your local Metal store and buy "The New Age of Chaos". You can trust me, I hear 1000 albums per year and I can tell you this one is among the 50 best ones for 2005.

Chavdar Tzachkov.....8,0

## UNABOMBER

*"Potemkin" CD*  
VOLICAR ROCK  
UNABOMBER were formed back in 1996 and they contain musicians from many Underground bands. This CD is an attempt to represent their idea of the world around and the society. It is their lives and experiences that they have lived through. Musically it is harsh Grind / Crust with many unexpected break...emo, screamo, Metal... Good and original stuff!

Ivalo Tonchev.....7,0

## DRILLER KILLER

*"The 4Q Mangrenade" CD*  
OSMOSE  
The 7th album of this cult Swedish Crust / Hard Core band. "The 4Q Mangrenade" includes 12 energy-drink-like tracks which grab you from the very beginning till the end. All these vehement songs are perfect to get you higher if you are in bad mood. You can remain indifferent to these tunes, unless you are... dead. The tracks are full of bestial tempo, simple but with nuclear charge guitar riffs, seismic bass guitar and cannonade-like drums. Yes, the headbangers won't regret it if they choose "The 4Q Mangrenade". This album does not need more words. Buy or Die!!!

Chavdar Tzachkov.....8,0

## VOICE OF HATE

*"The Handling of Flesh" CD*  
VOLICAR ROCK  
Hailing from the lands of Iberia, this extreme band presents their first album. Thirteen tracks, full of war, horror and torture similar to bands like MORBID ANGEL, EXTREME NOISE TERROR, REPULSION and SLAYER. Otherwise, it all blends in some grinding Death Metal with social lyrics. I really hope that the future predicted by VOICE OF HATE will only stay inside this album, it has never been that pessimistic. A good band and a good production.

Ivalo Tonchev.....7,0

## PSYCROPTIC

*"Symbols Of Failure" CD*  
NEUROTIC  
The best Tasmanian band is back. And what a return? "Symbols of Failure" is the third album of PSYCROPTIC and I can say their best work so far. It is an incredibly technical and virtuosic brutal Death Metal record, something in the vein of DEEDS OF FLESH. What I liked mostly in the 9 tracks is the terrible onrush in creating something diverse and technical as much as possible. It is like a wild tornado. Normally most of the Death Metal bands use 2-3 main tunes in a track, but here we have even more than 5-6. The drums are incredible as performance, the sound is very crisp. The guitars can make you breathless, so technical, so clearly performed parts could be done only by very professional musicians. Only the vocals are too scary for me, at places they are alternating with guttural vocals which suit better to the style of PSYCROPTIC. No doubt, one of the best Death Metal albums for 2006 so far!!!

Chavdar Tzachkov.....9,0

## the underground

## NECROTENAL

*"Demolition of the Dead" Demo CD-R*  
Self Released  
It is not so often when I have the possibility to hear a band from New Zealand. Stu - drums; Richard - vocals; Wayne - Guitar, Bass, backing vocals; Steve - guitar, have recorded 3 tracks for this demo, the second one "Demolition of the Dead" you can hear in the Free CD Sampler attached to this issue. An incredible track full of various tempo changes, lightning-fast attacks, catchy guitar riffs and even some good melodies. This is my impression, you can hear the song and make your own opinion. The music of NECROTENAL is an interesting mixture of old school Death / Thrash / grinding Black Metal, performed with a great dose of passion and malice. The sound is even good for a regular release, it is powerful enough to make you insane. Well, you can hear the track and to decide if NECROTENAL are suitable for your taste. I see a very good future for these NZ dudes.

Chavdar Tzachkov

## MANIAC

*"Demo '05" Demo Tape*  
SPEED SLAUGHTER PROMOTION  
Priceless. What this tape first attracts the eye with is the "Fuck Norway" slogan on the cover. And how wouldn't you state that, when you hail from Canada and your own riffs were ended up bringing back to life such huge names as RAZOR, VOIVOD or SLAUGHTER, names that most of Norway's BM conphaei nowadays claim to be inspired by! Here one can discern some Black Metal shades as well, but it is the good of Thrash sound that prevails! I'll definitely get in touch with MANIAC for a possible interview in the future! Contact: speedslaughter@gmail.com

Vanya Marinova

## CARNAL TRACE

*"Demo 2005" CD-R*  
Self Released  
Track 1 ("Incestro") of this 2-song demo turned out dealing with nearly one-minute long noises of bestial hyper activities, which made it sound more like a prelude to track 2 ("Faces Engraved"). A track that proved to offer brutal Death Metal. If you leave the CD spinning 1-2 minutes after the song has ended you will hear some dark Ambient passages. And it is only CARNAL TRACE who could supply you with the answer whether this very composition is a third unmentioned one or a "Faces Engraved" continuation. In brief, these guys sound like they have aimed at coming up with something extremely creepy but, as I mentioned in another review already, I think that it is once in a blue moon when Darkness chooses to speak through Metal riffs.

Vanya Marinova

## OSSASTORIUM

*"Inferi" Promo CD-R*  
Self Released  
Wow, this Lithuanian band is my "promo" discovery for this issue of Brutalica Magazine. An incredible band, I'm sure they have a great future, of course if the look is with them. "Inferi" includes 11 tracks, it is like a full length album, so every interested label must know that the guys have written material enough for a debut album. The typical demo sound (not bad at all) can't reveal the full potential of these young musicians. If they re-record the tracks in a better, professional studio, I'm sure the result will be awesome. The music of OSSASTORIUM is a unique mixture of dark Death / Thrash with some Black Metal and atmospheric passages. They sound damn brutal at places, pleasantly melodic at others, very, very technical with a lot of catchy guitar riffs, various tempo changes, fascinating guitar solos. Influences come from Bay Area Thrash bands like EXODUS, SLAYER, etc, the classic Death Metal of DEATH, MORBID ANGEL...but definitely you must hear OSSASTORIUM to feel their great potential. Labels, this band deserves your interest: www.ossastorium.tk

Chavdar Tzachkov

## METALHEADZ

*"Promo 2004" CD-R*  
Self Released  
The very band name would easily mislead you that you have just come across another restless bunch of 80's revivers. And I doubt not that this is what these Italians have tried to achieve, but I personally heard a bit harder version of CHILDREN OF BODOM. Far from bad musicians the Metalheadz are, anyway. Website: http://www.metalheadz.it

Vanya Marinova

## AGE OF AGONY

*"War, Hate, Blasphemy" MC*  
KARPATIA Productions  
The "War, Hate, Blasphemy" release from Hungary's AGE OF AGONY turned out being limited to 333 copies, and I am feeling lucky to be the owner of #182! What these guys have for you is 9 tracks of very well played Death Metal - the whole album leaves with the impression that AGE OF AGONY are by no means of aiming to come up with ideas never heard / viewed before, and playing the music they've been enjoying is what works for them best instead! Good job! Website: http://snpbpx.hu/agnony

Vanya Marinova

## DEATHEVOKATION

*"Blood" Demo Tape*  
Self Released  
USA's DEATHEVOKATION were formed in 2005 with the intention to resurrect the memory of acts like MORGOTH, AUTOPSY, MORTEM, PENTACLE, etc. Additionally, I sensed some influences from PARADISE LOST's earliest albums, hence seeing "Lost Paradise" in the guys' playlist mentioned in the press release was not a huge surprise. Awesome outbreak of DEATHEVOKATION anyway, "Blood" is the first ever recording from them and its intro might easily mislead you that you have just come across yet another bunch of sympho BM effusions but you leave the tape rolling, no worries! Very kind of the band to send us their demo both on CD-R and MC. Website: www.deathevokation.com

Vanya Marinova

## MELISEND

*"Demo 2005 CD-R*  
Self Released  
The Netherlands' MELISEND was devised in 2002 and this demo CD is the first recording of the band ever. What the 7 tracks here are about is unpretentious and straightforward Doom / Death - one can feel the self-confidence which each of the members has played his role with. I think that MELISEND does have a future! Website: www.meliseind.com

Vanya Marinova



**RESUSCITATOR**  
*„Warrior's Death“ CD*  
**DISPLEASED**  
 Described as the missing link between ENTHRONED and IMMORTAL, RESUSCITATOR are ready to blow your ears with 8 tracks included in their third album released by the Dutch label DISPLEASED. The keyboards are left off here, as it intensifies the material. Rough Black Metal, with solid 80's riffs and some unexpected experimental touches at places... It is rather slow and painful. It is occult and mystic. Black Metal, what can you expect?  
 Ivailo Tonchev..... 6.0

**ROTTEN SOUND**  
*„Exit“ CD*  
**SPINEFARM**  
 The best known Finnish Grind Core band is here with their fifth studio release (not a bad result for 13 years of existence). The big treasure of ROTTEN SOUND is the phenomenal drummer Kai Hahto, one of my favourite drummers. He has also taken part in other Metal acts but his full potential he can show only in ROTTEN SOUND. Just listen to his incredible performances in the 18 tracks included in „Exit“. Such a horrible speed you will hardly hear somewhere else. Of course it is not only the speed, Kai is a very versatile drummer, he can beat with the lightning fast speed, but he is also very good at the double-bass drumming. I'm fascinated by the easiness which he makes his transitions with. Of course ROTTEN SOUND is not only Kai, the other guys are veterans in the Underground and they know very well how to make „Exit“ a vehement Grind Core hurricane, full of smashing guitar riffs, screaming vocal attacks and sonic hate. Musically „Exit“ is not something that you haven't heard before but for 13 years ROTTEN SOUND haven't made even a step aside from their curse. And it is Grind, Grind, Grind... and Grind again!  
 Chavdar Tzachkov..... 8.0

**SONIC SYNDICATE**  
*„Eden Fire“ CD*  
**PIVOTAL Recordings**  
 Aggressive and explosive, comprised by 6 Swedish youngsters, SONIC SYNDICATE is surely a band with a lot of potential. 10 tracks divided into 3 different segments, with a continuous theme / concept through its tracks. Melancholic Gothic Metal supported by keyboards and beautiful melodies. It is no wonder that their live shows have attracted thousands of people all over Europe. Prepare to bow, as the promo sheet warns...!!!  
 Ivailo Tonchev..... 7.0

**REVEREND BIZARRE**  
*„I Crush the Insects“ CD*  
**SPICEFARM**  
 8 track with total time of almost 74 min. I hope this could give you a hint of what to expect. If you guess it is 70's Doom with only guitars, bass and drums you're right, REVEREND BIZARRE is an old school Doom Metal band in the vein of SAINT VITUS, PENTAGRAM and of course BLACK SABBATH. The opener „Doom over the World“ is an epic and majestic opus starting with a slow part, some SABBATH influenced riffs and the enchanting vocals of Albert Witchfinder. „The Devil Rides Out“ doesn't have the same epic chorus but it is a very heavy track reminding me a little of the early works of TROUBLE. The next track „Cromwell“ is a mid-tempo one, nothing special at all. „Slave of Satan“ begins interesting with only the bass guitar. It is a very heavy and damn slow song, much slower than the

previous tracks, 14 min of music suitable for a funeral procession. „Council of Ten“ can be divided in two parts, the first slow and sad, the other a little bit faster and epic. In „By This Axe I Rule!“ the guitarist Peter Vicar has increased the reverberant sound of the guitars and here he uses some additional effects. The last two tracks „Eternal Forest“ and „Fucking Wizard“ become a little boring with the monotonous slow tempo. The first part of this album is more varied and interesting. Well, I think this is enough for this album. Now I need something fast or I'll fall asleep.  
 Chavdar Tzachkov..... 7.0

**SHACKLED DOWN**  
*„The Crow“ CD*  
**SELFMADEGOD**  
 That stuff smells of the summer of 1988, when I discovered the USA HC. I was too fat to skate, let's also mention that there were no skateboards at all. But I knew D.R.I., SUICIDAL TENDENCIES, CRYPTIC SLAUGHTER and SEPTIC DEATH. And then I became a fan of this kind of music. Now, 14 years later, this is one of my personal picks for the Brutalica 11th issue. It may be old fashioned or too watered, but I love this kind of stuff! Formed by ex members of PIGNATION, this debut album with 14 tracks of US Thrash / Hard Core anthems is a serious declaration for a place in the world HC Scene. I know it's a cliché, yet I love it and I can never get enough!!!  
 Ivailo Tonchev..... 9.0

**SEVERE TORTURE**  
*„Bloodletting“ CD*  
**KARMAGEDDON MEDIA**  
 Actually „Bloodletting“ is not a new studio release of SEVERE TORTURE, it is a live album recorded by the famous Tue Madsen but in the info-sheet there is not mentioned where?! The sound for a live record is excellent but I don't know how „live“ is this recording, with today's digital equipment every good sound engineer could do miracles even after the live recording. I can't feel the live atmosphere, after the end of most of the tracks you can hear only „Thank you“ of the vocalist Dennis Schreurs and the shouts of 20-30 drunken fans. Except the live tracks „Bloodletting“ contains also a cover version of PESTILENCE's „Lost Souls“ and the demo „Baptized in Virginal“ recorded in 1998. If you are a diehard SEVERE TORTURE fan or if you collect everything from Holland's brutal Death Metal Scene look for this CD at your local record store.  
 Chavdar Tzachkov..... 7.0

**REVOLUTION CALLING**  
*Compilation Double CD*  
**LISTENABLE**  
 Yes, that is a brand new compilation that features audio and video tracks by bands like KEVORKIA, SCARVE, MORGUE, EYELESS, PITBULLS IN THE NURSERY, GOJIRA... Listenable Records decided to give it a go with a handful of promising French HC / Metal bands. Very good compilation with a well-laid informative booklet. It is like a visit card CD / DVD for a price of CD, so if you want to meet these people, go ahead!  
 Ivailo Tonchev..... 6.0

**ATHEIST**  
*„Elements“ CD*  
**RELAPSE**  
 ATHEIST for me is one of the most innovative but also one of the most underestimated bands. No doubt their music is

unique and hyper technical and most of the fans can't understand it, because it is complex, non-rhythmic and it has a lot of elements other than Metal, mostly Jazz, deep funk grooves, Latin rhythms, flamenco guitar styling and samba interludes. As far as I can remember, „Elements“ originally was released in 1993 but obviously the distribution wasn't good enough because it is the less known release of ATHEIST. Later the band split up and I heard that maybe there would be a reunion for a festival appearance, but who knows, maybe a new release is coming. It is a very good idea of Relapse to re-release all the three albums of ATHEIST garnished with a lot of bonus material and elegant packaging. For the young fans who haven't heard this progressive Death Metal band before it is a great chance to do that and let's hope that ATHEIST will release also a new album.  
 Chavdar Tzachkov..... 8.0

**ZERO POINT**  
*„Time Stands Still“ CD*  
**COPRO**  
 ZERO POINT supported NEW MODEL ARMY along one of their tours!! So, that means a lot, if you like N.M.A. The band plays a mixture of Stoner Rock and post Punk, with socio-political lyrics. I guess there is some influence, pointing at the indie scene back in the very early 90s. Referred as „Instantly Infectious“, ZERO POINT are simply a must see band, with an airplay support by BBC and a gathering crowd of followers.  
 Ivailo Tonchev..... 4.0

**ALLHELLUJA**  
*„Inferno Museum“ CD*  
**SCARLET**  
 This band was completely unknown to me but the fact that in it there take part Stefano Longhi from Scarlet Records (on drums) and the vocalist Jacob Bredahl, the frontman of SPV's HATESPHERE attracted my attention. Actually, ALLHELLUJA is a party band, the style is unpretentious dirty Rock'n'Roll Metal, according to the info-sheet a mix between ENTOMBED, MOTORHEAD and KYUSS. Well, when I heard the album 2-3 times I found it too soft for my taste, but this doesn't mean it is bad. The main problem is the lack of fresh ideas, all this I have heard hundreds of times and emotionally it can't fill me up. „Inferno Museum“ features 10 songs which have been mastered at the famous (and quite expensive) Cutting Room Studio in Sweden (RAMMSTEIN, IN FLAMES, etc).  
 Chavdar Tzachkov..... 6.0

**DISRUPTION**  
*„Face The Wall“ CD*  
**COPRO**  
 Born by the end of 90s, DISRUPTION had their start as a typical Swedish Death Metal outfit. After some years, many misunderstandings with labels and releases, the debut album is already a fact. The release in question has more aggressive sound and sounds more mature. Coming from the Death Metal genre, enriched with influences by bands like SPLUNKNOT and RAMMSTEIN, the band is hungrier than ever to gain the success they deserve. Actually, the sound is raw and fierce, so if you like Metal and like it nu and brutal...pay attention to this.  
 Ivailo Tonchev..... 5.0

**NECROCEST**  
*„Dead Pretty“ CD*  
**CASKET MUSIC**  
 The never-ending productivity of Copro Records / Casket Music continues. At least 4-5 new releases every month,

mostly with totally unknown and middling bands. NECROCEST is one of the most brutal bands under the flag of Casket Music. Coming from South Welsh Valleys, these guys present ultra heavy and brutal Death Metal reminding of SUFFOCATION and with influences from BOLT THROWER (the heavy slow parts), CANNIBAL CORPSE and a lot more. „Dead Pretty“ has almost everything to be considered as a good Death Metal release... brutal front cover art, massive and deep sound, guttural gore vocals, powerful drums, heavy guitar riffs and the ambition to make diverse compositions. But the lack of good technical skills is obvious, at places they sound quite numb, definitely they must practice more to improve that. Otherwise, if you like heavy and brutal Death Metal with various tempo changes try NECROCEST out.  
 Chavdar Tzachkov..... 6.0

**CENTURIONS GHOST**  
*„A Sign Of Things To Come“ CD*  
**I HATE Record**  
 Voted for „the 3rd unsigned band in the Terrorizer end of year poll 2003 and 2004 respectively“, CENTURIONS GHOST come to crush your heads with their debut album. A true mixture of Doom, Black and Death Metal constructing songs that have an epic flow and overwhelming heaviness. Very dark sound, intense and slow, that has a gloomy reflection upon your senses. Fans of CATHEDRAL, CANDLEMASS or CELTIC FROST...take note!  
 Ivailo Tonchev..... 6.0

**SCAAR**  
*„The Second Incision“ CD*  
**KARMAGEDDON MUSIC**  
 This is the second album of this Swedish band, but it sounds so mature and skillfully performed as if it is their sixth, not just the second. The guys call their music Modern Thrash Metal, but in my opinion it is a mixture between Swedish Death Metal, Thrash and Hard Core. Or I can say it like this: MACHINE HEAD meet PANTERA and PANTERA meet MESHUGGAH. Hope this can give you a clue of what to expect from „The Second Incision“. The 9 track have been recorded in Studio Underground (CARNAL FORGE, NECRODEATH, etc.) a fact that should convince you that the sound is smashing and polished. I liked mostly the incredible double bass drumming of Richard Holmgren. The guitar riffs of Alf Johansson are very heavy at some places and furious at other, this Metal guy demonstrates very good skills. The vocals of Alex Jonsson are very angry but a little boring at places, maybe this is because I find them quite HC influenced and I don't admire this kind of vocals so much. Anyway, SCAAR is a very good band and if you are into the above mentioned bands you definitely must check them out.  
 Chavdar Tzachkov..... 7.5

**SHINING**  
*„IV - The Eerie Cold“ CD*  
**AVANTGARDE MUSIC**  
 Compared to a needle, „injecting the purest of heroine into your arm“ or „as a monument to all the misery around us“, SHINING have something more to say, besides making your heads bang for a while. I think that it is rather hard to play the „air guitars“ at this kind of music, as it is rather sad and melancholic. It is Black Metal that borders with Ambient and Gothic at places. Also very HELHAMMER-ish at places. It is a conceptual album devoted to suicide, dark, gloomy Black Metal with many breaks and some crazy guitar solos. If you are in the mood for that, enjoy it!  
 Ivailo Tonchev..... 6.0

**HATE**  
*„Anacsis ... A Haunting Gospel of Malice and Hatred“ CD*  
**LISTENABLE**  
 This Polish band left me with very good impressions with their two previous albums, „Holy Dead Trinity“ (released in 2001 via World War III) and „Awakening of The Liar“ (Listenable Records, 2003). Actually HATE has been founded in the distant 1990 almost the same time with VADER but obviously they haven't reached the famous status of the Death Metal Gods. The new sonic creation of HATE consists of 8 compositions of top quality Polish Death Metal with some additional influences from bands such as HATE ETERNAL, ZYKLON and THORNS. HATE have added this time some Industrial Metal elements, maybe as a striving to sound more modernistic and original, something to distinguish them from the majority of the Death Metal bands. Anyway, if you are into Polish Death Metal or into quality Death Metal as a whole, you must try out this record.  
 Chavdar Tzachkov..... 7.5

**WOJCZECH**  
*„Sedimente“ CD*  
**SELFMADEGOD**  
 Being famous after their countless releases over the years, it was time for them to publish their first album. It took 10 years to these crazy Germans to publish this and I bet, it was well worth the wait... These 11 fireshots of nihilistic rage are nothing but blast beat fury and apocalyptic soundtracks to our own destruction. With elements of Grind, some Death Metal, the obvious Punk attitude, with some sludge influence, this is surely GRIND A.D. 2005. Amazing production of Harris Johns at Spiderhouse Studio.  
 Ivailo Tonchev..... 8.0

# code 666: The Animate Vinyl Series

**Brodequin**  
*"methods of execution"*  
  
 AR 009 / LP / lim. to 666 copies  
 Descend into the deepest depths of damnation. Pulverising, grinding Death Metal, rough and brutal. Drums that batter you senseless, lyrics of torture and execution. Pure infernal noise. Bleed for the speed.

**In Battle**  
*"welcome to the battlefield"*  
  
 AR 010 / LP / lim. to 666 copies  
 Pure Death Metal, super-fast and quite technical, with members of Odhinn, Setherial and Diabolical. An almost perfect balance of extremity and technique. Basically a dream for every brutality fan with class. Mixed and mastered by Erik Rutan (Morbid Angel / Hate Eternal).

**Incapacity**  
*"9th order extinct"*  
  
 AR 011 / LP / lim. to 666 copies  
 A masterpiece of extreme and aggressive music with trademarked Swedish melodies. Sounds like a mix between Edge of Sanity, Carnal Forge and The Heunted. Band members used to play in bands like Edge Of Sanity, Marduk, Infestdead, Skitsystem and Pan-Thy-Monium. Produced by Mieszko Talarczyk (Nasum), mastered by Peter In De Betou (Dimmu Borgir, Dismember, Grave, Edge of Sanity, Hypocrisy). An old spirit reborn in a fresh package.

**Satariel**  
*"hydra"*  
  
 AR 012 / LP / lim. to 666 copies  
 One of Sweden's finest melodic Black Death Metal bands is finally back! "Hydra" represents a large part of the metal spectrum, a sound like Immortal meets Soilwork and early In Flames. Excellently written material, with tons of hooks and well done riffs. Bow down to Satariel. This album definitely kills.

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**

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# AGORAPHOBIC NOSEBLEED

*"Bestial Machinery" Double CD*

**RELEASE**  
Ooh, this is a real nightmare. Only some schizophrenic mind could make this sonic torture, and it is even on two discs?? This inhuman, relentless and insane double CD set features all of AGORAPHOBIC NOSEBLEED's recorded material prior to their Relapse debut, *"Honky Reduction"*. Mostly out of print vinyl records, some unreleased material, countless schizoid tracks that can drive a hole in your brain. I would give a golden medal to everybody who is capable to endure the whole two discs, all this ultra psychopathic, drum-machine fueled Noise / Grind. But today's world is full of untinged people, so I'm sure *"Bestial Machinery"* won't remain unsold.

Chavdar Tzachkov.....6.0

# CATHETER

*"Dimension 303" CD*

**SELFMADEGOOD**  
Following the success of their previous LPs and 7" releases, here comes their sophomore release. 18 tracks of hyper-fast and vicious Grind Core, pure auditory damage. Of course, it is not just plain noise, but exciting mixture of the early NAPALM ETHER played on 45 rpm... Excellent piece of music to spend all an hour head banging, as your mind will be destroyed by each of these 18 attacks on your senses. Excellent stuff!!!

Ivailo Tonchev.....8.0

# ALABAMA THUNDERPUSSY

*"River City Revival" CD*

**RELEASE**  
As far as I can remember my colleague Ivailo Tonchev didn't like this band when he wrote a review for their previous release in our previous issue. But I can say AT are not so bad, even they are good to relax at when you have listened to various ultra brutal bands as I did today. Actually I found out that *"River City Revival"* was not a new album of this band, this is a re-release, of course with a better sound and with some added bonus tracks. If you ever have listened to this band before you may be surprised, it is the same Stoner Doomy Rock in the veins of ORANGE GOBLIN, SPIRITUAL BEGGARS, CORROSION OF CONFORMITY, etc. Of course nothing new but definitely not bad.

Chavdar Tzachkov.....6.5

# CROWBAR

*"Life's blood For The Downtrodden" CD*

**CANDLELIGHT**  
After a short hiatus, CROWBAR are here to stay with a new album. After many previous albums, this one is here to stay and to say something new in the ages old band history. Supported by Rex Brown (PANTERA, DOWN), Craig Nussmeier (BLS, CROWBAR) and Warren Riker (Down II) for the recording and producing of this release shows a more dangerous and mature CROWBAR. One part aggression, one part heavy, this is the recipe for this sonic disorder. If you know CROWBAR, be sure this band is here to stay... for 15 more years... I'm sure about it!

Ivailo Tonchev.....6.0

# EVOKEN

*"Antithesis of Light" CD*

**AVANTGARDE MUSIC**  
Fall River soldier killed in Iraq; Modesto marine killed in Iraq. Four bodies found across Baghdad... how the hell does this all sound to you? Maybe as a depressing, hopeless, sad and dark tale about the stupidity of the mankind? The same moods and emotions could provoke in you the music of EVOKEN with their uncompromising, extreme, hypnotic, slow Doom Metal. After a 4-year hiatus (the last release of EVOKEN *"Quietus"* had been released in 2001) these US Esoteric Doom Metal masters finally recorded a new album, 7 long tracks, very suitable for a soundtrack for... the end of the world. I can't find proper words to describe this 72-minute sonic journey into the darkest horizons of the human soul. Depressive but with damn powerful and deep sound, *"Antithesis of Light"* can instigate your thoughts about the meaning of life and the beforehand destiny of mankind. Do not miss this masterpiece!!!

Chavdar Tzachkov.....9.0

# LUNATIC GODS

*"Mythos" CD*

**HROM RECORDS**  
LUNATIC GODS have always been a band with a difference. Their fourth album is again a conceptual album, telling a story about the epic fight of the humankind with the worms that ends tragically for us... It goes further to where their previous album *"The Wilderness"* left off, with some more unusual instruments like cimbalion, violin, contrabass, samples and female voices. Musically it is a great mixture of Doom and Death Metal, made to sound original and extravagant. This is surely one of the best Metal bands in the Eastern Block. The CD has a multimedia part with 2 videos, specially designed for your home PC. Enjoy!

Ivailo Tonchev.....8.0

# ALCHEMIST

*"Embryonic" CD*

**RELEASE**  
It's a double album, made of 25 tracks, including a sort of a "best of" and also unreleased material, recorded between

1990 and 1998. Unfortunately with that there end the good points about this release, as after several spins, the only thing I can say is that the CDs are nothing but a mixture of styles, best known after bands that have the cult status for their hometown and are totally unknown worldwide. Clumsy and out of place electro beat that fuzzes without sounding heavy, country-ethno curves, that have nothing to do with PINK FLOYD. The surface structure of the tracks and the rather shaking and monotonous rhythm section just consolidated my view that the band had to pass through these years just to find themselves and the style they will become famous for. It was the *"Austral Alien"* that made it, 10 years after. Of course, the tracks are not that bad, there are good moments like the vocal that reminds me of a harder version of Jaz Coleman (KILLING JOKE). I was rather irritated by the promo sheet that actually kept on repeating how good and innovative they are. It is true only if we speak about the 80s... This release can be only worthy for the people who actually remember these years... Otherwise, it is just the first years of a band, that will be mentioned more and more as standard in the progressive music worldwide...

Hristo Boyadjiev.....5.0

# SMAXONE

*"Regression" CD*

**SCARLET**  
Awesome debut of SMAXONE, their sound is modern, stylistic, professional and, what is most important, original. An incredible mixture of FEAR FACTORY, DEVIN TOWNSEND and FAITH NO MORE, SMAXONE go even further than LINKING PARK in their search for acceptability between styles, probably because they have the bigger courage to experiment with the extreme in their music. Electronic samples and beats, modern synthesizers mixed with freezing Metal riffs. The melodic vocals of Claus Lilien, as contrasting with the brutal screams of Michael Bogballe (EXMENEIC), make SMAXONE sound like one of the strongest Nu Metal bands. *"Regression"* is an incredible cocktail of almost all Metal styles and is offered in a way that makes you get it in one breath.

Atanas Kostadinov.....9.0

# DEMONIZER

*"The Essence of War" CD*

**PAINKILLER**  
The Belgians DEMONIZER are formed in 2001 by several Thrash maniacs. Gradually the style gets faster and more extreme. In December 2002 the band enters the studio and records their debut album *"Thrashing Force...Attack"*. A lot of live performances follow, among which stage appearances with NOCTURNAL BREED, LAMENTED SOULS and WITCHCRAFT. DEMONIZER signs a contract with Painkiller Records and the label releases the second album of the band *"The Essence of War"* - 8 songs of uncompromising Black / Thrash. Raw and dark sound, rather naturalistic Black - for extremists only.

Atanas Kostadinov.....6.0

# SEWN SHUT

*"Rediscovering The Dead" CD*

**SELFMADEGOOD**  
29 tracks for 27 minutes is not a Guinness record anymore, yet this band has reached the unreachable limits of extremity. It may appeal to fans of raw Scandinavian Grind Core, that this is the essence of the term...no complex guitar solos, dual high / low vocals, breakdowns and crisp and clean drums. This band has progressed from being just a "one man band" to a fully functional 3-piece act that did their first tour in 2004, covering Germany and Czech Republic in 2004. The sound also differs a lot, as the CD covers tracks recorded for 6 different releases. A must for all Grind Core die hards!!

Ivailo Tonchev.....9.0

# ENEMY UNKNOWN

*"Alert Status: Red" CD*

**CASKET MUSIC**  
"Alert Status: Red" is a debut album of ENEMY UNKNOWN. The band line up is: Mat Hockham - vocals & rhythm guitar, Owen Heurne - lead guitar, Mark Smith - bass and Steve Ebsworth - drums. ENEMY UNKNOWN gets inspiration from bands like METALLICA, MEGADETH, EXODUS and IRON MAIDEN, to create their hybrid of Heavy Metal and the brutality of more contemporary styles. Very good guitars, but the vocals do not appeal to me much. The music is diverse - melody and aggression intermingle in the two guitars, the compositions are versatile and catchy, but these monotonous vocals do not fit that kind of music according to me.

Atanas Kostadinov.....6.0

# MECHANICAL POET

*"Woodland Prattlers" CD*

**AURAL MUSIC**  
MECHANICAL POET are from Russia. The band features Max Samosat - vocals, Lex Plotnikov - guitar / bass / keys, Tom Tokmakoff - drums / bass / keys. *"Woodland Prattlers"* is a very interesting and obscure album, and the style is Progressive / Orchestral Metal. Very Gothic atmosphere mingled with Progressive riffs and predominant keys with a deep trance sounding. The vocals of Max Samosat are versatile and original, and they contribute to the specific sound of the

band *"Woodland Prattlers"* is a very good album...tracks like *"Stormchild"*, the balladic *"Sirent from the Underground"*, *"Strayed Moppet"*, the interesting *"Old Years Merry Funeral"* and the epic *"Natural Quaternion"* prove that MECHANICAL POET are a very good band. After such a strong debut I expect a more serious continuation.

Atanas Kostadinov.....8.0

# ANTIGAMA

*"Zerland" CD*

**SELFMADEGOOD**  
I'm not sure, but some people are born with drum machine kits inside their bodies. I have in mind the drummer for ANTIGAMA, who adds strength to the maximal blow, provided by their music in *"Discomfort"* (*"Zerland"* is just another tasty piece of cake...). As I will mention further in another review, the Polish are extremely serious in tearing your ears to pieces and smashing you with a perfect sound and quality. Hysterical Grind attacks are followed by mid-tempo attacks that calm down the guys until the next explosion. Actually, this has also some singing. The perfect soundtrack for a psycho film.

Hristo Boyadjiev.....9.0

# MICHELE LUPPI'S HEAVEN

*"Strive" CD*

**SCARLET**  
On 18th of July 2005 Scarlet Records released *"Strive"*, the solo album of Michele Luppi. Known best as a vocalist of one of the most popular Metal bands from Italy VISION DIVINE, in his own album Michele Luppi appears in a different light. In *"Strive"* Luppi is a producer, a composer, a singer, a musician and a sound engineer. The music is very catchy and complete, and the style is melodic Rock in the vein of MR BIG, BON JOVI and KISS. In this release Michele Luppi shows his awesome voice in a way different from the way he shows it in VISION DIVINE (I personally miss the harder parts). We must not omit to mention the names of Alex De Rosso (DOKKEN), Olaf Thorsen (VISION DIVINE), Maurizio Solieri (VASCO ROSSI) and Oleg Smirnov (VISION DIVINE)...the musicians who have taken part in this project.

Atanas Kostadinov.....7.0

# DEMIGOD

*"Slumber of Sullen Eyes" CD*

**XTREME MUSIC**  
DEMIGOD's legendary album originally released in 1992 by Drowned Productions is now re-released with the demo *"Unholy Domain"* (1991) added as a bonus. Of course the art design is revamped and improved (Turkka Rantanen). For me especially, *"Slumber of Sullen Eyes"* is one of the golden Death Metal classics of all times. Songs such as *"As I Behold I Despise"*, *"Dead soul"*, *"Slumber of Sullen Eyes"*, etc. are Death Metal hymns with their catchy guitar riffs, deep sound and emotional vocals. For those who don't know, DEMIGOD split up in 1994 but in 2001 they have reformed again and even released another album named *"Shadow Mechanics"* (Spikelfarm, 2002), but it doesn't have the spirit and the impact of *"Slumber of Sullen Eyes"*. Even a new album is scheduled for 2006 but I doubt that it will be old school Death Metal, their new direction is more experimental, a mixture between different styles. For me DEMIGOD will be known only for the *"Slumber of Sullen Eyes"* classic. This masterpiece is a must for every Death Metal fan!!!

Chavdar Tzachkov.....8.5

# MAHAVATAR

*"Go with No!"*

**CRUZ DEL SUR**  
Strange, different, inspirational and depressive, exciting and repulsive... this is the MAHAVATAR sound. The guitarist Karla Williams from Jamaica joins forces with the Israeli songstress Lizza Hayson in order to form MAHAVATAR in 1999. Before the release of the debut album, the band plays in many of the New York clubs and experiments with plenty of styles until the sound concept of *"Go with No!"* becomes a reality. The album is recorded in 2004 at Purple Lights Studios. MAHAVATAR finish the work on their first creation for several months. The dark and aggressive guitar riffs of Karla and the specific voice of Lizza shape out an emotional and unique album - a blend of numerous styles. *"The Time Has Come"* simply blew me off!

Atanas Kostadinov.....8.0

# CONFESSION

*"Unraveled" CD*

**SEASON OF MIST**  
Most of the old Metal fans surely know this band from their album *"Condemned"* (Earache, 1991) and their unique and unsophisticated sound. Some people call them a Doom Metal band, others Psychedelic Doom - the truth is that it is very hard to give an exact style definition of their music, you must hear it. The early period of the band finished in 1994 when they unfortunately decided to split up. Unfortunately, in 2002 the guitarist Ivan Edward Colon passed away at the age of 32 and the other guys decide to reform the band in order to play a benefit show for him. Things went even above the expectations and CONFESSION recorded some new tracks for

# RETH

*"Demo 2005" CD-R*

**Self Released**  
The UK's RETH have sent us two CD-Rs with three short tracks + a CD-ROM part filled with pictures, lyrics and some videos. Groovy schizophrenic Grind Core with vocals reminding me of FLESH PARADE, I hope some of you still remember this crazy US Grind Core outfit. Yes, RETH perform the same Grind Core style with screaming vocals, with a decent influence from US brutal Death Metal bands like for example, DYING FETUS. The inspiration for this demo came from a piece of stained glass entitled *"The Prickle of Conscience"*, which with its accompanying poem depicts the last fifteen days of the world. Good demo sound, very insane video of the track *"Rational Actor / Definite Host"*, no doubt this band has a future, but of course they need more live activities, more rehearsals and of course more promotion. The most important thing for these guys is to believe in what they do and to have ambitions to improve themselves as best as possible.

Chavdar Tzachkov

# FOR SELENA AND SIN

*"Draining" Demo CD*

**Self Released**  
A band name like this surrounded by a Finnish origin hardly demands THAT a keenness in order one to get a picture of what FOR SELENA AND SIN might be dealing with. At least I turned out to guess right that the name of the game is melodic Doom Metal here, but my mood of ALWAYS expecting the worst played me a trick this time... The 3 songs on the *"Drained"* demo proved to sound rather good - no excessive decorations, just pleasant atmospheres and decent sound quality. Let's not forget the songstress Sini as well: her vocals are far from unique indeed, but delight the ear with their plainness and velvet softness. Website: [www.forselelenaandsin.net](http://www.forselelenaandsin.net)

Vanya Marinova

# LEGION

*"Promo '06" CD-R*

**Self Released**  
Raw BM is what you should expect there. These guys from Ecuador play fast and furious, use face paints and as a whole sound good enough that to start thinking of releasing a full-length. Website: [www.legionspyr.com](http://www.legionspyr.com)

Vanya Marinova

# CATACUMBA

*"Birkat Ha-Minim" Demo CD-R*

**Self Released**  
The *"True Brazilian Black / Death Metal"* slogan on the booklet just couldn't be passed by without a smile. On my behalf at least. The truth, however, is that CATACUMBA is far from a bad band! What the 4 tracks on this demo CD offer is a stunning blend of 1990's Black Metal severity and pure Death Metal vehemence. Apart from that, the material is notable for its great sound quality. Hell of an outbreak, I will keep an eye on CATACUMBA in the future! Contact: [gordorothvominnoise@hotmail.com](mailto:gordorothvominnoise@hotmail.com)

Vanya Marinova

# WINTERTHRALL

*"Promo 2005" CD-R*

**Self Released**  
Just like these North Americans state in their press release themselves, the promo material they have come up with is European-styled Blackened Death Metal. Nothing that we have not heard before, but at least the tracks on the CD are very well constructed, so I believe that WINTERTHRALL would appeal to many. The band members are additionally known for their involvements with acts like NOCTURNAL, EVIL DEAD and THE IRON MAIDENS. Contact: [winterthrall@excite.com](http://winterthrall@excite.com)

Vanya Marinova

# VOW DREAMS

*"Dead Two Times" Demo CD*

**WHITNESS PRODUCTIONS**  
Quite an intriguing recording... I would say that this Italian band sounds like a Black / Death one in general, but the 7 tracks (including intro and outro) are garnished with plenty of bizarre moments and this added to the plant constructions leaves with the impressions that the songs live their own lives actually. Contact: [11666972@hotmail.com](mailto:11666972@hotmail.com)

Vanya Marinova

# ZARATHUSTRA

*"Contempt" Promo CD*

**UNDERCOVER RECORDS**  
In my OLD interview the band's frontman had mentioned ZARATHUSTRA as another worth checking out act from Germany, so my gladness of noticing *"Contempt"* in the package was quite understandable. This outfit turned out to exist since '96 and, prior to the record I'm writing a review of, these guys have 2 demos, 2 full-lengths and a couple of mini albums. What I heard from *"Contempt"* anyway was a mid 90's Black / Death music additionally garnished with 80's Thrash influences. The overall release leaves with the impression that ZARATHUSTRA are great musicians, but the record kind of lacks FEELING, in my ears at least. Website: [www.zarathustra-online.net](http://www.zarathustra-online.net)

Vanya Marinova

# COMBAT NOISE

*"Under Military Terror" Demo CD*

**Self Released**  
This CD-R reached me without any info, it turned out lacking a cover even, the search engines on the internet showed nothing at all either, so the *"Cuba"* note under the hand-written "UMT" title on the CD itself still remains the only clue. Music-wise, COMBAT NOISE proved to offer 11 tracks of uncompromisingly ferocious, thick Death Metal played with a great deal of skill and dedication. Debutangers must not omit *"Under Military Terror"* definitely!

Vanya Marinova

# XX

*"Demo" CD-R*

**Self Released**  
The Death / Core has never been something that would leave me fascinated, but still I couldn't deny that this 2-song demo eventually appeared an eloquent proof that the XX members have spent a lot of time in their rehearsal place. The versatile track constructions and the thick sound proved to be a great match.

Vanya Marinova



a demo CD, which finally helped them to sign a deal with Season Of Mist. „Unraveled“ is their second album in 20 years, it is again in the same unique psychotic Metal style, characterized with the highly technical and complex music and the high clear vocals of Scott Jeffrey. The open-minded fans who look for slow but technically played music with psychedelic and clear vocals must buy this matchless album. For the regular Metal fans it could be too progressive.

Chavdar Tzachkov.....8,0

## LORDS OF DECADEENCE

„Cognitive Note of Discord“ CD

SCARLET

The Austrians LORDS OF DECADEENCE offer a mixture of CHILDREN OF BODOM, SOILWORK and IN FLAMES in their album since 2004 - a stunning project! No wonder that Rock Hard chooses LORDS OF DECADEENCE for „Best Newcomer '04“. The band sounds compact and modern and with its numerous stage appearances throughout Europe they gained a lot of admirers among the Metal fans! The doubtless hit in the album is „When Rain is Pain...“. I would pick up also „Go to Blazes!“ as well as „Relationship Erazed“. Here are the band members: Norbert Leitner - guitar / vocals, Andreas Tuma - bass / vocals, Bernd Kladler - guitar and Paul Tikal - drums. They are all from Vienna and form LOD in 2001. Scarlet release their album in March 2005.

Atanas Kostadinov.....7,0

## PROSTITUTE DISFIGUREMENT

„Left in Grisly Fashion“ CD

NEUROTIC

What can you expect from a band with such an intense name? In any case you cannot expect some kind of melodic love songs, ha-ha... PD is maybe the most brutal and inhuman Death Metal band from The Netherlands. There are very big similarities with CANNIBAL CORPSE but the vocals are 10 times more brutal. To be honest, these vocals are too monotonous; indeed they are fucking guttural and ferocious but at places they spoil the well played music. Maybe I grew older, who knows?! From the starting track „Body to Ravage“ till the last one „Bloodlust Redemption“ you can hear damn fast and monstrous ultra brutal Death Metal with a very good sound and production. The drummer should be a wild animal, he beats so fiercely as if he is Osama Bin Laden and his drum kit is George W. Bush. The guitars have a little spatial sounding and there are even some guitars solos, just a little break for your bleeding ears. Definitely „Left in Grisly Fashion“ is not for everyone, it can cause a heart attack to those who are unprepared. Be cautious with this record!!

Chavdar Tzachkov.....7,0

## KAYSER

„Kaysertof“ CD

SCARLET

Thrash Metal of a highest class... something that is not accidental, if one bears in mind that KAYSER features Spice (ex-SPRITUAL BEGGARS), Matias Svensson (THE DEFAECED), Bob Ruben (ex-THE MASHROOM RIVER BAND) and Frederik Finnander (ex-AEON)!!! The style is a hybrid of MEGADETH and SLAYER...classical Thrash riffs, metallic vocals, aggression, melody and darkness... There is no one weak track, hear „The Waltz“, „Lost Cause“ or „Like a Drunk Christ“ and you will realize that KAYSER is a very strong band. The album sound is very modern, but KAYSER are closer to the classical bands rather than to the newer ones. I personally like that, because a lot of bands started playing like SOILWORK and IN FLAMES. About KAYSER there is accentuated on the music itself, and it kills!

Atanas Kostadinov.....8,0

## END OF GREEN

„Dead End Dreaming“ CD

SILVERDUST Records

This German band has 4 albums behind their backs and even their debut release „Infinity“ had been released by Nuclear Blast in 1996. „Dead End Dreaming“ is their fifth album and since I haven't heard any of the previous records, I can't tell if there are any changes in their music. Stylistically it can be described as melancholic Goth Rock with slight Metal sounding here and there. The vocals of Michelle Darkness (the vocals are male, not female, the name mislead me) slightly remind of Peter Steele's style of singing, the influence is obvious. Also I can draw attention to the good sense of melody of this band, especially in the Gothic Rock / Metal field this is maybe the most important thing... without good and memorable melodies they hardly could touch the listener. „Dead End Dreaming“ was produced by Alex Krull at Mastersound Studios, the sound is very well balanced, though something in the sound in the drums annoyed me. Fans who are into melodic Gothic Metal / Rock without synths could try out this album. Not bad at all.

Chavdar Tzachkov.....7,0

## THY MAJESTIE

„Jeanne D'Ark“ CD

SCARLET

THY MAJESTIE do not need a more special introduction, they are popular enough already and have a lot of

fans. „Jeanne D'Ark“ is the third album of this epic Power Metal band from Italy, the release is conceptual and is dedicated to the great Virgin of Orlean. Doubtlessly, this album is the most significant creation of THY MAJESTIE so far. The cover artwork is done by Carl-Andre Beckstom, and the mastering is done in Sweden by Goran Finnberg. The songs sound majestic, epic and are performed with a lot of melody and excellent orchestrations, one can sense the band's growth also in the arrangements and the very ideas of the compositions. My favourites became „Siege of Paris“ and the concluding track „The Trial“.

Atanas Kostadinov.....7,0

## SUBMISSION

„Failure to Perfection“ CD

LISTENABLE

This Danish band has made its first steps 3 years ago when some friends decided to form a project to make mostly fun. But the thing obviously went quite well because they even succeeded to make a demo CD which have got some awesome reviews and the band even received an award in the category „Best Demos / Self Financed CD“ at the Danish Metal Awards in 2004. This award probably has been the reason SUBMISSION to receive some offers for a record deal and obviously the offer of Listenable Records has been the best one. So, „Failure to Perfection“ is the first fruit of this contract. The 10 tracks have been recorded in some professional studio because the sound blasting from my speakers is very powerful and faultless. The music of SUBMISSION is about 80% influenced by the Gothenburg sound of bands like DARK TRANQUILLITY, SOILWORK, MNEMIC or DARKANE... Or let's call it Scandinavian Death / Thrash with some furious blast-beats. Good impression makes the well-done vocal improvisations, there are three different types of vocals... the main is of course growling, also you can hear some screaming-like vocals and the most innovative is the combination between the Death growls and the clear melodic vocals. „Failure to Perfection“ is a high quality Thrash / Death Metal blended with good melodies, perfect sound and it's performed by musicians remarkably skilled for a debut album.

Chavdar Tzachkov.....7,5

## SLOUGH FEG

„Atavism“ CD

CRUZ DEL SUR

SLOUGH FEG is a band with a long history and preferences for sounding truly Heavy Metal and uninfluenced from the contemporary Scene and the modern sound. This might appeal to some Metal fans, but I am definitely not among them. The band sounds more like a Stoner Rock one - very naturalistic, even primary. Apparently, that was what the band has aimed at. I liked some riffs but, as a whole, I find „Atavism“ mediocre. The vocal parts are feeble and probably this is the weakest point of SLOUGH FEG.

Atanas Kostadinov.....4,0

## IRON ANGEL

„The Tapes“ CD

PAINKILLER

„The Tapes“ is a concert album of IRON ANGEL. Recorded during the KING DIAMOND German tour in '86, it also features the participation of the band at Warpke Open Air '85. This album is dedicated to the guitarist of the band Peter Witke who dies at an airplane accident. The other members of the band are Mike Matthes - drums, Thorsten Lohman - bass, Dirk Schroder - vocals and Sven Struven - guitars. All the biggest hits of IRON ANGEL played live plus two unreleased tracks... 13 tracks in total that are included in „The Tapes“. The band rocks hard live and it is not accidental that IRON ANGEL has been one of the 80's strongest bands in Germany.

Atanas Kostadinov.....7,0

## THIRD DEGREE

„Outstay“ CD

SELFMADEGOOD

I really tend to believe that the Polish guys are rather serious, when it comes to Death and Grind. They accomplish their releases until the final scratch, as it goes with THIRD DEGREE that smashes your brain with sound and musicianship in their second album. Dark Death-Grinding Metal messed with crusty elements and slower MESHUGGAH meets GOD-FLESH moments. The vocals remind of GREENWAY, but the music goes more straight-forward than NAPALM DEATH. If this is not enough, try their other releases. That will surely not disappoint you.

Hristo Boyadjiev.....8,0

## BURNING SAVIOURS

„Burning Saviours“ CD

I HATE RECORDS

One more 70's Doom influenced band. Yesterday I wrote a review for a similar band - REVEREND BIZARRE, but the Swedes BURNING SAVIOURS offer more gentle Doom with their debut album, they even use a flute in some of the tracks, and the guitars sound more softened. But again the main influences come from mighty bands such as BLACK SABBATH, PENTAGRAM, WITCHFINDER GENERAL and SAINT VITUS plus some 70's Art Rock bands (for example JETHRO TULL). Everything here is old school - the sound, the music, the gui-

tar solos, the whole atmosphere, even the outlook of the musicians is old fashioned. Good thing here is the slightly mystical atmosphere in some of the tracks. Don't know what more to say, if you like the old classic records of BLACK SABBATH or you find new bands such as REVEREND BIZARRE interesting, you should love BURNING SAVIOURS as well. Some people may call them a SABBATH clone band, but it is about point of views after all.

Chavdar Tzachkov.....7,0

## IRON ANGEL

„Winds of War“ CD

PAINKILLER

The label Painkiller re-released also the second album of IRON ANGEL „Winds of War“. This album is recorded and mastered in 1986 at Karo Music Studio in Munster, Germany and contains 10 songs + 7 demo tracks. The classical Speed Metal of IRON ANGEL can be heard in all compositions, and „Stronger than Steel“, „Metalstorm“ and „Sea of Flames“ are the absolute hits. You all realize that it is difficult to rate these albums nowadays, but I would say that IRON ANGEL have made rather valuable Metal in the 80s. I personally was curious to hear music recorded in times when Heavy Metal was at its apex, as well as the demo versions of seven songs from the first album of the band „Hellish Crossfire“.

Atanas Kostadinov.....8,0

## SCENT OF DEATH

„Woven of the Book of Hate“ CD

BLOODY PRODUCTIONS

The second full-length album of these Spanish Death Metal freaks surprised me, because I expected to hear some primitive Underground brutal and monotonous Death Metal. Just the opposite, SCENT OF DEATH are a damn technical band with great influences from MORBID ANGEL, IMMOLATION, INCANTATION, etc. but they have even left their own sign in the music. Very well-structured compositions with a lot of technical transitions, these precisely performed. The tempo is various, sometime it is slow with predominant heavy double-bass drumming, and in other passages there are furious eruptions. The biggest dignity of this band is the great technical skills and the tendency to make their music vigorous, technical and brutal as much as possible. The album finishes with a hidden MORBID ANGEL cover version - this is not a surprise for me, it shows that the guys have listened hundreds of times to the records of this Death Metal gods. The fans who look for rougher Death Metal hardly will like „Woven of the Book of Hate“ but those who always search for technical, almost avantgarde brutal Death Metal definitely must find this record.

Chavdar Tzachkov.....7,5

## IRON ANGEL

„Hellish Crossfire“ CD

PAINKILLER

In the beginning of the 80s, when bands like IRON MAIDEN, JUDAS PRIEST, SAXON and DEEP LEPPARD make England the capital of Heavy Metal in Germany, along with ACCEPT, HELLOWEEN, SCORPIONS, RUNNING WILD there appears a young Speed Metal band named METAL GODS, the name is later changed into IRON ANGEL. The band releases its first album „Legions of Evil“, shortly after that there comes the debut album „Hellish Crossfire“. The year is 1985. With tracks like „Rush Power“, „The Metallian“ and „Heavy Metal Soldiers“ IRON ANGEL demonstrates raw sound, rapid and destroying guitar riffs and dark lyrics. Apart from the 10 tracks the CD features 7 demo songs.

Atanas Kostadinov.....7,5

## RUNNING WILD

„Rogues En Vogue“ CD

GUN

22 years of Heavy Metal and they still don't get silenced!!! RUNNING WILD, the living legend of the German Scene raise the pirate flag again! Captain Rock'n'Roll presents to us „Rogue En Vogue“, the new album of the pirates fully complied with the typical RUNNING WILD sounding: the specific vocals of Rolf Kasperek, the guitar melodies, the epic choruses... everything is here. True fans of the classical Heavy Metal of RUNNING WILD will not remain disappointed. The material of the album had included 27 songs of which Rock'n'Roll chose 11 to celebrate the return of the band. „Draw the Line“, „Angels of Mercy“, „Skull & Bones“, the title track „Rogue En Vogue“ and the album's epic finale „The War“ prove that RUNNING WILD still have what more to give to Heavy Metal, as well as to gain new fans.

Atanas Kostadinov.....8,0

## GREEN CARNATION

„The Acoustic Verses“ CD

SUBLIME PRODUCTIONS

One of the most commented Norwegian bands in the last two years. Not only because of the participation of Tchor, but also for their eccentric releases. Even I saw their album „A Blessing in Disguise“ voted as „album of the month“ in an issue of Terrorizer Magazine. „The Acoustic Verses“ is quite a different album, it is a pure acoustic record, a mixture between classical and modern music. It hasn't anything to do with Metal, so if you are a diehard Metal fan just avoid it, there is nothing for you there. For the open-minded fans who are not afraid to lis-

ten to other styles. „The Acoustic Verses“ could be a sonic delight, mostly with the incredible pro-performed acoustic guitars, melancholic clean vocals and splendid melodies. Here you also can hear clear piano, violins, and other classical instruments. I don't have information about how many guest musicians have taken part in this album, but from their past albums I know that they have used almost thirty musicians (including also a children's choir). Also an interesting fact is that Sublime Productions has been started by GREEN CARNATION members Tchor and Kjetil Nordhus and „The Acoustic Verses“ is the first release of this new label. The 7 compositions presented here have a great musical value and I cannot neglect them.

Chavdar Tzachkov.....8,0

## THE PLAGUE OF GENTLEMEN

„Primula Pestis“ CD

I HATE RECORDS

Compared to the other I Hate Records band BURNING SAVIOURS that I reviewed yesterday, the Belgians TPOG sound much more Underground, darker and heavier leaving the listener in a hopeless mood. Yes, it is again Doom, but this time with a very low tuned sound, obscure guitar riffs, deep and dense bass and more extreme vocals. One of the heaviest Doom Metal bands that I have heard lately. The atmosphere at the moments sounds like it is to background a funeral procession. There are some fast passages here and there but the predominant tempo is slow, at places even awfully slow and somber. „Primula Pestis“ contains seven songs and is enhanced with two live video shots of the songs „Blackwood Cabinet“ and „The Ocean Has No Sides“. So, you even can feel how TPOG are doing on stage, which is a good point to choose this CD if you are into bands like PANTHEIST, WINTER, PENTAGRAM, ESOTERIC, SKEPTICISM, etc.

Chavdar Tzachkov.....7,0

## SINOCENCE

„Black Still Life Pose“ CD

CASKEET MUSIC

North Irishmen SINOCENCE are: Morovox - guitar & piano, Anto - lead guitar, Kaxx - bass & vox and Davy - drums. „Black Still Life Pose“ is a debut album for the band. The sounding is a rather interesting mixture of melodic Thrash / Death and Alternative vocals. SINOCENCE have already shared the stage with MACHINE HEAD, THERAPY and WEDNESDAY 13. The band wins the second place of UK BATTLE OF THE BANDS (sponsored by Kerrang! and Terrorizer). The album „Black Still Life Pose“ is recorded at Einstein Studios with the Irish producer Frankie McCloy and contains 12 heavy neo-Metal tracks. I liked most „Makin the Monster“, „Shedding Skin“ and „Requiem“. The music of the band is hard and clean, and the modern sounding will appeal to the listeners!

Atanas Kostadinov.....7,0

## GHOST MACHINERY

„Haunting Remains“ CD

SOUND RIOT

Power Metal from Finland. After the first hearing an unpleasant impression makes the too loud double bass-drums at most places, also the guitars are too weak, obviously something is mistaken in „Haunting Remains“ during the mixing. Good words I could say for the atmospheric keyboard parts and the vocals of Pete Ahonen. In this style one of the most important elements is the memorable melodies, which here are very few, I simply listen to the songs and I can't find something catchy. I have the sense that I have heard this many times before, even I heard this band for the first time when I got this promo CD. Sorry guys, I had the intention to write something good for „Haunting Remains“ but the album couldn't attract my attention, it simply lacks catchy ideas and the sound production has some disturbing faults. Next time, maybe.

Chavdar Tzachkov.....5,0

## REQUIEM AETERNAM

„Philosopher“ CD

CORP

A very serious work both as music and lyrics. The musicians who have created „Philosopher“ are Jose Romero - vocals & guitars, Maciogy Kupiszewski - bass, and Alex Hernandez - drums. All lyrics in the album are based on works by philosophers like Gautama, Seneca, Rousseau, Heracitus, Nietzsche, Kirkegard as well as on the book by the vocalist Jose Romero „Forbidden Writings“. The music startsles with its contrast, the compositions are rich and monstrously brutal in their dialecticism. The drumming of Alex Hernandez is amazing. Thrash and Death riffs become one with lyric moments and structure the specific sounding of REQUIEM AETERNAM. Very good South American band with an awesome album!

Atanas Kostadinov.....8,0

## BATHTUB SHITTER

„Dance Hall Grind“ CD

SUPER HIT JAM RECORDS

I had a few pleasant moments while listening to this CD. The music returned me back to the early AGATHOCLES / ACOUSTIC GRINDER era with its energy and naive feeling. The Japanese guys are in touch with the current trends and though the lyrics deal with shits and similar amusing things, you can actually hear something new. Of course, the ideas and the music leave some place for suspicion, if this is a joke or on the contrary, if it is made on purpose. Maybe the songs would have sound-



ed differently, it recorded in a better studio. Now the primitive Grind Core is replaced by groovier moments, mixed with classic crossover rhythms, known as typically DRI sound. Then, you get perplexed by the not so typical rhythms in the next few seconds. Of course, this album is not for Malmsteen maniacs, but mostly for the fans of the early Earache stuff! Hristo Boyadjev.....7.0

## REQUIEM

*"Requiem Forever" CD*  
**SCARLET**

The Finnish Metal band REQUIEM is back already with their third album *"Requiem Forever"* which, according to me, is the best one released by the band so far. The music of REQUIEM sounds more routinized and more progressive in all the 11 songs in this melodic Metal album. The band combines Heavy, Power and Speed / Progressive and that will appeal to a wider circle of listeners. Keyboards, guitars and vocals... everything is on its proper place, but I think that the best of this best is yet to come, songs like *"Vindictive Heart"* and *"Gods of War"* convince me in that. I would pick up also the more commercial *"Possessed by Power"*, *"Hold On"*, *"The Tower"* and *"Nightfall - Omnicida"*...they are potential hits. The guitar and the keyboard solos are very good and will appeal to the more pretentious listeners. Atanas Kostadinov.....7.0



## TERROR 2000

*"Terror for Sale" CD*  
**SCARLET**

*"Smashing!!!"* is the best definition for the new album of TERROR 2000. This is the third album of this band and I shall admit that I haven't listened to the previous 2 releases, but I will correct that. TERROR 2000 features Bjorn "Speed" Strid (SOILWORK) - vocals, Klaus Ideberg (DARKANE) - guitars, Erik Thysellus (CONSTRUCTED) - drums, and the new bassist Dan (HATELIGHT). Incredibly heavy sound combining the modern sounding with classical riffs. Rapidity and aggression - very masterly and very brutal. This band simply crushes heads with its power and pretends uncompromisingly for the high-seats of the contemporary Thrash Scene. In *"Terror for Sale"* there is no one weak track, I am frankly suggesting you to hear for yourselves! Atanas Kostadinov.....8.0



## DIFENACUM

*"Lapsus" CD*  
**HECATOMB Records**

If albums like *"From Enslavement to Obliteration"*, *"World Downfall"* and *"Unrest"* ring a bell inside your mind, then this will show you the real 3 in 1 mixture, extremely good combination. The whole album is played and recorded in a single breath and should be played and listened in the same way. It's not a lapsus at all. The vocals have something to say, and they do it with a lot of anger and evil, in Spanish, with constant changes of the rhythm. If this was recorded in 1989, it would have been a milestone for today's generation of Grind / Crust bands. The sound is preserved in the best traditions for those days that makes it perfect for banging your head against the wall. If only mega stars like BRUJERIA had kept their pure Grind Core sound (instead of turning into lame radio friendly Metal), DIFENACUM would have been famous too. And they deserve that, for the very reason of being real... Hristo Boyadjev.....9.0

## ENGORGED

*"Where Monsters Dwell" CD*  
**RAZORBACK**

ENGORGED are real musical monsters that break the barriers between Death, Thrash and Grind Core. Played with a lot of feeling, following all the rules of the above mentioned genres, with a perfect old-school sound, the band is extremely pleasant for fans like me. Who like to listen to old stuff repackaged neatly. When I say this, I do not want to insult ENGORGED, it is the very combination of ANTHRAX and REPULSION or CARCASS and SLAYER, that makes them innovative, building a bridge between the past and the present. Of course, all the tracks start with words from cult horror movies that is also typical for the 80s... Do not miss this CD, a typical example of being old school without being boring. Just like DIFENACUM. Hristo Boyadjev.....9.0



## PRO-PAIN

*"Prophets Of Doom" CD*  
**CONTINENTAL / RAWHEAD**

Hard, midtempo and aggressive, as they have created it years and years ago. Even after so many years and more than 1 000 000 sold albums, PRO-PAIN are ready to pour over you the

next wave of orthodox Thrash Core or Hard Core / Metal played in a way that only a band with more than 10 years of experience in the field of the headbanging area can allow to itself. Of course, as you can predict for a band of that size and style, there are no significant changes between the first and the last album. That makes every next album a sort of best off... If you are a PRO-PAIN devotee, do not hesitate, if you like the early METALLICA or PANTERA, go ahead, even if you are a bit bored of DARKTHRONE, for a moment that will be your cup of tea... I still prefer ENTOMBED. Hristo Boyadjev.....7.0

## XANDRIA

*"India" CD*  
**DRAKKAR**

Qualitative and experienced presence of doubtlessly a serious band combining melancholic Gothic sound, majestic orchestrations, folklore motives and very pleasant female vocals. I am sure that fans of NIGHTWISH will like the album *"India"*, I personally think that XANDRIA sound even more diverse and masterly. XANDRIA impress a lot with their album since 2004 *"Ravenheart"*, and with *"India"* they simply prove that are one of the strongest bands on the German Scene. The sound, the modern percussions and the melodic vocals will certainly attract new fans of the band standing outside the Metal circles. I personally listened to this album with pleasure, though I am not a fan of female vocals and that type of music particularly. I cannot deny the merits of this band. Atanas Kostadinov.....7.0



## FRUIT TREE

*"Sunset" CD*  
**CASKET MUSIC**

How could you take serious a band with such a name? Rather strange sounding and a perverse sense of humour. Dark mood with Heavy riffs, Death / Black vocals and clean female vocals. Raw and unpolished sound... that sounds like a demo rather than a studio album. According to the people of Casket Music the band creates incredible live shows even without pyro effects. FRUIT TREE have taken part in gigs with NAPALM DEATH, NILE and LOST PROPHETS. In *"Sunset"* there are many details that needed to be more worked upon, but there are also not bad ideas and melodies. The female vocals bring a lot of diversity, the music itself is interesting too, but



amateurish done.

Atanas Kostadinov.....3.0

## ETERNAL FLIGHT

*"Positive Rage" CD*  
**CRUZ DEL SUR**

The French ETERNAL FLIGHT was formed in 2001 from the ashes of another French band DREAM CHILD (they released two albums, the last one *"Reaching The Golden Gates"* on Metal Blade). Actually it is a project of DREAM CHILD's vocalist and songwriter Gerard Fois, who decided to start a new band and, as you expected, he found some good friends and ETERNAL FLIGHT become a reality. The other famous musician here is the drummer of ALKEMYST, this band is signed to Nuclear Blast, and this label doesn't sign contracts with everyone. Musically ETERNAL FLIGHT can be described as Power Heavy Metal with Progressive Metal song structures, melodic and epic vocals, tender guitars, powerful and crisp drums. As a whole the production is good, maybe not so polished as the leaders in the genre but the 11 tracks included in *"Positive Rage"* have been mastered by Luigi Stefanini, known for his work with bands like ADMELCH, SOUL TAKERS, CONCEPT, ELDRITCH and a lot more Progressive / Power Metal bands. Fans of DREAM THEATER or SAVATAGE would like this album! Chavdar Tzschkov.....7.0

## MORS PRINCIPUM EST

*"The Unborn" CD*  
**LISTENABLE**

It is a known fact that Listenable Records have the tradition of releasing well-known and grown up bands. It is not the exception with the Finnish MOST PRINCIPUM EST, technical Death / Thrash in the Swedish way, accompanied by short Grind explosions, many guitar solos, Heavy Metal atmosphere, pleasant synth tones ala DREAM THEATER / SWANO, perfect sound and raw vocals. If you are into the described type of stuff, go ahead and order it, it is a perfect replacement of any of the big names inside the genre. Hristo Boyadjev.....7.0

## SKYLARK

*"In the Heart of the Princess" Best Of Double CD*  
**SCARLET**

A luxury and a beautiful double CD that includes 26 tracks of SKYLARK tracing back the development of the band and features songs from 8



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albums, 2 new songs and 3 remakes of "Little Girl", "The Princess Day" and "Dream". The style of the band is Power Metal, they are founded in 1994 by the pianist Eddy Antonini, whose keyboards have a very serious presence and form the whole outlook of SKYLARK. Melodic and epic vocals. Speed riffs and orchestrations. A more serious remark could be made about the sound of some tracks which is simply on a demo level, and the female vocals in some compositions are also below the average level.

Atanas Kostadinov.....5.0

## THE IRON MAIDENS

*"World's Only Female Tribute to IRON MAIDEN" CD*  
DRZ Records

The title says it, "The Only Female Tribute to IRON MAIDEN". 5 chicks (3 of them members of the well-known in the early 90s Hard Rock female band PHANTOM BLUE) decided to make a tribute band in 2001. The goal is to make remarkable cover versions of the giants IRON MAIDEN. The good musical knowledge and skills have helped them to record 10 (+ a hidden bonus track) covers of some of the biggest Maiden classics. An interesting fact is that the CD has been recorded in Silver Cloud Studios, where Bruce Dickinson recorded some of his solo CDs. Also the girls have used IRON MAIDEN / Steve Harris amps and cabs to achieve the authentic IRON MAIDEN sound. I have heard many IRON MAIDEN covers by different kinds of bands, some strived to make their versions closest to the originals, others tried to add something of their own. THE IRON MAIDENS are from the first category... maybe only the vocals of Aja "Bruce Lee Chickinson" Kim differs from the originals (it is quite natural actually), the others: Sara "MiniMurray" Marsh - guitar, Linda "Nikki McBURRAN" McDonald - drums, Josephine "Adrianne Smith" Draven - guitars, Wanda "Steph Harris" Ortiz - bass have performed their parts very close to the originals. I really enjoyed the cover versions of "Two Minutes to Midnight", "The Trooper", "Killer", "Aces High, etc. I hardly can believe these classics are performed by women. The cover art of the CD is made by Derek Riggs, creator of IRON MAIDEN's mascot Eddie. Very strong contribution to the British Metal titans but they obviously have been fascinated (like me) by these 5 girls. Good stuff, I like it, and I will put it in my neverending MAIDEN collection.

Chavdar Tzachkov.....8.0

## SKYLARK

*"Fairytale" CD*  
SCARLET

The best thing in this album is its cover. And this is a band that plays since 1994! The musicians are doubtlessly skilled, but something is missing in their compositions, be it in the sound, the arrangement or in the very, very weak vocals. And the cover of "Moonlight Shadow" is simply ridiculous. The songs are too far from the valuable bands in the melodic Power Metal genre. For me it is very strange that a band with so many years of practice behind their backs have made an album like this and I wouldn't like to insult neither any of the members nor the fans, but it was really hard to listen to the entire album.

Atanas Kostadinov.....3.0

## OUTCAST

*"First Call / Last Warning" CD*  
THUNDERING Records

Technical and inspiring Death / Thrash Metal mixed with some SLAYER and SEPULTURA ("Arise" era) rhythms. Created by a highly successful team of musicians with a crystal-clear and well-balanced sound. Sadly, they have underlined the "we can be equally good to the big names" attitude, instead of trying to be original. That makes this album quite boring. The MESHUGGAH styled aggression from the "Destroy Erase Improve" era add some flavour to the otherwise monotonous sound. I guess that with playing live they have more to say. Musically, this is a high-quality Thrash / Death album with a modern sound.

Hristo Boyadiev.....6.5

## SILENT VOICES

*"Building of The Apathy" CD*  
LOW FREQUENCY RECORDS

Awesome Progressive Metal from the Finns SILENT VOICES. "Building of The Apathy" is a strong album created by: Michael Henneken - vocals; Timo Kauppinen - guitars; Jukka Koivisto - drums; Henrik Klingenberg - synthesizers; Pasi Kauppinen - bass. Personally for me SILENT VOICES remind me of VANLEN PLAS, but the music is harder, thanks to the furious, at places even Thrash rhythms. The dialogue between guitars and keyboards is on a superb level, the music is extremely varied and the vocals of Michael sound fresh and specific. Long compositions, with a frequent change of moods and tempos, a lot of melody and memorable choruses, great guitar solos. Songs like "World's End", "Into the Flow", "The Realm of Flames" and "Blood of Eden" make the album marvelous. The epic choruses could win the band a lot of sympathies even for fans outside the Progressive genre. In conclusion I can say I heard the album with a great pleasure and I will do it again and again...

Atanas Kostadinov.....9.0

## MISERY INDEX / COMMIT SUICIDE

*Split MCD*  
WILLOWTIP

This is the second official CD release for MISERY INDEX, together with

COMMIT SUICIDE. A little bit of Thrash and a few Punk spices are carried by the well-structured and played tracks. The good cover of DISCHARGE and the good sound make their appearance of this CD a discographic rarity, showing a bright future for a band that will mean something in the world of extreme music tomorrow... COMMIT SUICIDE are also presented by their early tracks, well-done Death Metal in the good old North American traditions. Sadly, they no longer exist, even after their 2 successful albums. Let's hope they will come back some day...

Hristo Boyadiev.....8.0

## NON HUMAN LEVEL

*"Non Human Level" CD*  
LISTENABLE

I'm not sure if my soul was craving for this, tortured by the avant-garde-prog-atmospheric boredom that has been killing my brain cells, or was it the band that consisted of the proper people for that kind of music, but it got me straight into my heart. Imagine a mixture of ANNIHILATOR, DEATH and ATHEIST well-baked in the Swedish sound and played with the KREATOR aggression. This is the dish, prepared by the well-known members of DARKANE, DEVIN TOWNSEND and MESHUGGAH, created in a Swedish studio. NHL are ready to play with your senses, to extend your musical imagination until the limits and to deliver an epic masterpiece of sounds, melodies and aggression. I will not try to explain what is NHL anymore... as everything in this album is on NON HUMAN LEVEL.

Hristo Boyadiev.....10

## REVOLTING COCKS

*"Cocked & Loaded" CD*  
13TH PLANET RECORDS

The music of REVOLTING COCKS is a peculiar alloy between MINISTRY, MARILYN MANSON and SISTERS OF MERCY. "Cocked & Loaded" is a party album with a modish sounding, a mixture between different styles and moods, between distorted instruments and electronic samples and beats. In the album you can hear furious and slow tracks, very fascinating lyrics with a great sense of humour and some potential hits, very suitable for jumping, dancing and headbanging. Definitely REVOLTING COCKS make music which you hardly can listen sitting on your couch. I think the album would appeal to the Industrial fans as well as to all those freaks who are into aggressive electro-beats and wild parties.

Atanas Kostadinov.....6.0

## NEGLIGENT COLLATERAL COLLAPSE

*"Sick Atoms" CD*  
OBSCENE

Elementary Death / Grind, with clumsy Industrial elements, old school groovy rhythms, double vocals... high and low. It's rather clumsy and not polished, but it has Death, it has Grind, so get your ears for it... Collectors... go ahead.

Hristo Boyadiev.....4.0

## MANGLED

*"Witness Disposal Program" CD*  
DEEPSND Records

I'm happy to see that MANGLED still exist. This album is much brutal and faster than their early albums, when they played more melodic Death Metal and praised the grandeur of the Roman empire. "Witness Disposal Program" consist of 12 extreme Death / Grind tracks recorded by the guitar player Erwin Hermesen in his Tone Shed Studio. Regarding the productions it is faultless but I find the songs somehow chaotic, yes they are full with blistering Death Metal passages but they lack catchy and memorable moments. The vocals are quite irritating, instead of this screaming vocal I would recommend a guttural one, like in their early period. I liked very much the track "Unspoken Atrocity" it is a good various track starting with a slow passage and incredible technical performances. Maybe I liked it because it is an instrumental and without the disturbing vocals the music sounds much, much better. Without any doubts the guys from MANGLED are very experienced and skilled musicians and I would recommend them to change the vocals and to try to make more various tracks like "Unspoken Atrocity".

Chavdar Tzachkov.....6.0

## MISTWEAVER

*"Age of Darkness" CD*  
GOLDEN LAKE

"Age of Darkness" is the fourth release of this Spanish outfit. I was really impressed by their second release "Dreams Domain" released in 2001 by Medusa Productions. I still consider this album as the strongest in the discography of MISTWEAVER, ever after I heard their new offering. Again the songs have various influences, from melodic Death Metal, classical Heavy / Power Metal and Medieval music. In most of the songs you can hear a delightful lead guitar with a very specific sounding. Predominant are mid-tempo atmospheric parts but there are also some furious moments... a good variety but you need to hear the album at least 4-5 times to sink fully in the music of MISTWEAVER. As a whole I'm really positively disposed to the "Age of Darkness" music, but I have some remarks regarding the quality of the production. The atmospheric parts are better recorded than the real Metal sound. "Dreams Domain" sounded much better, especially the drum parts. Very nice front cover art done by my good friend Michael from Dragondesign Studio.

Chavdar Tzachkov.....7.0

## MALEDICTIVE PIGS

*"Soul Surgery" CD*  
CUGEL

Classic Death Metal with Grind elements from the 90s, influenced by the European and American scene... Serious playing, no technical virtuosity, but good sound and smashing rhythms... Well-oiled German terror machine and nothing else, just Death Metal in its purest form that will be eaten alive by the fans of the brutal music.

Hristo Boyadiev.....7.0

## LORD GORE

*"Resickened" CD*  
RAZORBACK

From the 6 CDs that we have got from Razorback Records this is the best one, especially for me. It is a great groovy Death / Grind / Gore Metal with a lot of catchy and entertaining moments. Combining the old school Grind Core with the sound of the 21st Century Portland's LORD GORE have managed to create a funny album, full with hyper-fast Grind swaths, various monstrous vocals, and of course... some movie samples. Lyrically, LORD GORE can't surprise you, don't expect a band with such a name to sing about birds and flowers. I personally don't care about all these gore topics, I care about the music and in this case it is good enough to entertain me. Very good words deserve the outstanding production and the crisp, well balanced sound. Fans of CARCASS, IMPETIGO, GUT, BLOOD DUSTER, WHORE, etc. "Resickened" is your right choice.

Chavdar Tzachkov.....8.0

## MACHETAZO

*"Horror Grind" MCD*  
LAST HOUSE ON THE RIGHT RECORDS

You can read the title and judge for the style, which never goes over the ordinary "demo" level. Well played, fuzzy guitars. 1994 styled, there is an introduction in front of each track. Absolutely compulsory for each fan of this kind of music, otherwise you can miss them without bothering.

Hristo Boyadiev.....7.0

## COUNT RAVEN

*"Storm Warning" CD Re-Release*  
*"Destruction of the Void" CD Re-Release*  
*"High on Infinity" CD Re-Release*  
*"Messiah of Confusion" CD Re-Release*  
CYCLONE EMPIRE

All four albums of the monumental Doom Metal icon are now re-released by the German label Cyclone Empire. For the Doom Metal freaks COUNT RAVEN is a cult name and I guess they have the original versions of the albums, but maybe they will show interest to the revamped re-releases because they will find some bonus tracks, new artworks, liner-notes, rare pictures and exclusive booklets. Of course everyone who bought the new CDs will enjoy a completely remastered sound (done by Achim Kohler at Indiscreet Audio). Originally "Storm Warning" was released in 1990 by the Swedish Whiteflower Records, now the re-released version has two bonus tracks taken from the COUNT RAVEN demo records. The follow-up "Destruction of the Void" was released in 1992 and again its revamped version has two bonus tracks. Next album in the career of COUNT RAVEN "High on Infinity" has been released in 1994 by the German label Hellhound and is voted "album of the month" in the prestigious Rock Hard Magazine (the re-released version has one bonus track). The last album "Messiah of Confusion" was released in 1996 again by Hellhound but sadly the band split up in 1998. But in the end of 2004 the guys decided to bring back to life COUNT RAVEN and they played some cool festivals (Wacken, Keep It True, Belgian Doom Night) as well as a short Finnish tour with their friends MIRROR OF DECEPTION. In conclusion I would like to say that it is a 100% Doom Metal highly influenced by BLACK SABBATH, but also it has the wait of the 90s. A must for every self-respecting Doom Metal fan!!

Chavdar Tzachkov.....8.0

## GOJIRA

*"From Mars to Sirius" CD*  
LISTENABLE

Seems like Godzilla has attacked the coast of France and has set her longest ever journey... from Mars to Sirius. Unlike most of the French bands that I do not like, the weird style of Lopez and company (SUPPURATION) came to my mind, while listening to the 3rd opus by GOJIRA. And it is really an opus of the planets that burn you with their light and will crush you with their size and will even swallow you by their vacuum. The old slow stuff by MORBID ANGEL, the ultra heavy bass by MESHUGGAH, the vocals of David Vincent or Devin Townsend, coloured by the choir like sound... it will show you why the dragons had their uprising or why the ocean wanted to kill us with its water fury and the sun stays above all like a big "code red" over the planet. The main song of the project is "Where Dragons Fall", that doesn't mean that you have to hear only this one. The pleasant Sludge moments (ala Pelican) in some of the tracks drive you away, before you might disappear in the next wave of sound, mixed with the perfectly measured rhythm section and the burning vocals that have moved the cacalot from the cover inside your living room.

Hristo Boyadiev.....9.0

## DREAMTALE

*"Difference" CD*  
SPINEFARM

Wow, this is what I call a true Power Metal hit album. The opening track "Lost Souls" is like a hurricane, an energetic track with very dense and powerful sound, very well played guitar riffs, irresistible drums and the marvelous epic vocals of Jarkko Ahola (a new member for DREAMTALE). As a whole "Difference" consists of 11 Finnish Power Metal hymns recorded in Goldeworks Studio which, I guess, is located somewhere in Finland. The band is a top quality, Spinefarm is a big label and they can't sign with a band if they are not sure enough that it is a quality formation. I liked very much the incredible combination of the Heavy Metal sound and the delightful keyboards, they make some incredible and memorable melodies, which leave the listener in a pleasant mood. "Difference" is the fifth album of DREAMTALE and, believe me, it is worth the money, of course if you admire melodic Power Heavy Metal.

Chavdar Tzachkov.....8.0

## UNSAINE

*"Blood Run" CD*  
RELAPSE

Loved or hated, MTV hits and endless tours with different bands. The kings of Noise Rock that influenced hundreds of the now modern Doom and Sludge acts, plus many more things that can be said for one of the most interesting NY bands UNSAINE. It took them 7 years to accomplish this album but it was well worth the wait, so we could enjoy the exploding mixture of fury and music, violence and perfectionism. They have the right to be raw and hard to grasp, as they created the style and they have their "say" there. It is stuff that will smash your brain. I found the anti-piracy policy of Relapse that made them split all the tracks into 100 smaller files, a bit overwhelming, but it was well worth the patience. Excellent!

Hristo Boyadiev.....10

## EERIE

*"Hollow Stare" CD*  
BRUTALICA

Writing a review has never been that difficult. Of course, Chocho gave it to me, as he wasn't able to write it. And it took more than 2 days, before I could find the right combination of words to start it. And I immediately forgot them, as soon as I started writing it... Let's cut the crap, this is EERIE's first full-length album. An album for one, a true Metal revelation for another, just some minutes to headbang, while being home, for another... For us at the Brutalica headquarters it was more than that... Much more... It was a battle, that we started several years ago. A true battle with victims and glorious victories and silent achievements, not unlike the one that Don Quixote had with the windmills... To be precise, it was the year 1986 and the band HELL, that started it all. Some years after that, it was the MORTAL REMAINS project, that shook the boundaries of Bulgarian extreme Metal. One album released, many positive reviews worldwide and... nothing followed. It was almost 10 years after that, when the EERIE began. So, you can count really on some old scenesters, doing something they have been doing for the last 20 years. First, it was their MCD, that came out. Four mind-crushing classics, that were able to prepare the World for the sonic mayhem, that was ready to be unleashed... And here it is, finally. It took a lot of stressful moments, until it was finally ready. EERIE is a band, that was able again to shake the unsteady boundaries of what we call "modern metal"... It was recorded in their home studio, but the results are more than satisfactory. Hailing from the 80s extreme Metal with bands like CELTIC FROST, purified by the modern technology of the 90s. Raw, yet tuneful romances for the lost innocence and the modern world. You can hear traces of gothic, industrial and even ethnic folk music from the surrounding region. Of course, you can always say that you are bored with all these "mingle-mangle" type of bands, that mix everything with everything within their attempts to become "original".

This is really NOT the case, as the stuff EERIE did here sounds more that original and monolithic. It is not just the good old Metal, patched with different other influences, but a story of a lifetime, re-written in Metal chords and designed to make your ears bleed and your minds think. That's all. I had my time, wandering upon the final result. I can easily give it 10/10, but that will be not fair, as I have been so much involved in the project, that everything I say will be biased. So, I will ask Chocho, for the first ever time in the history of Brutalica, to submit "O/O final mark"... So, this is EERIE, second to no-one, the new Bulgarian hero of extreme Metal. And I guess, one of the phenomena in the scene of Eastern Europe. Buy the CD and support the scene. That's all, that I can say. It is co-released by GOLDEN LAKE (Scotland) and obtainable from their catalogues too.

hvalio Tonchev





# MESHUGGAH

When it comes to defying genres and pushing the boundaries of Metal, no name should be more prevalent in Metal fans' heads than MESHUGGAH. Since the band's inception over fifteen years ago, each release has brought fourth a new journey to the listener. The band's last two releases, the EP and „Catch 33“, prove to be by far the most interesting releases. The two songs add up to over an hour of music. Despite the band's clear stray from conventional recording processes and music writing, the band has managed to gain a larger audience than ever before.

## ALEXI FRONT

First off, this is the first tour you are doing in the states in support of „Catch 33“. How has the response been to the album in terms of the audience?

Thomas Haake [Drums]: It is hard to say. We have not been here touring, till now in the States. All the reviews are going really well. They are better on average then the past albums. We have not seen any really bad reviews of it. As far as that goes it has been really good. It is hard to say, as we have not been touring for this album for too long. People are digging it no doubt. For what it is, people are understanding what „Catch 33“ is. It wasn't written for live intentions. But now we do some shows for it,

and we do part of it, like ten minutes of it, and it works as live material. It would be almost impossible to play the whole thing. It is too much to learn.

How do you play the songs of Catch 33 live? Well the album is one song, it is just divided up into several songs, or chapters. But it is one continuous piece of music. For me it seems strange to talk of it as songs. We play a part that starts as a sample from the album that is played from the front of the house, then we play about ten minutes of the album. It is not a mix of different parts of the album; it is just one stretch of the album. It goes from the middle of the album for ten minutes.

Essentially, „Catch 33“ is a continuation of the „I“ EP and follows the same concept. How did the recording process work?

We started to write for the „Catch 33“ record, and what we had written in the beginning was going to be the „I“ EP which was going to be released on Fractured Transmitter, which would later release the „I“ EP. We lost track of what we wanted to do after a month of recording. We were also recording with live drums. We weren't feeling it and we started over. We did a totally different thing and that became the „I“ EP which was released on Fractured Transmitter. After that, we immediately started writing for the „Catch 33“ record. It took quite a lot of time. The „I“ EP was just going to a collection of material we were jamming on put together after a week. It was meant to be more of a funny side thing. But then, as usual, once we got into it and started feeling it and fooling around with it. It must have been four or five months to finish the „I“ EP. Then „Catch 33“ took about eight or nine months. Even though we have been away from the states and away from touring we have been busy.

How did the creative process for Meshuggah change over time? It is a drastic change to go from eight or nine songs on an album to one conceptual song. How does that process come about and how do the transformations take place?

In a lot of ways, I'd say that all of our releases until „Nothing“, everything was written separately. I would co-write with Martin or Frederick, Martin would write with Frederick or by himself, Jens would write by himself, and we would bring stuff together, most of which would be complete songs. „Catch 33“ and „I“ were both a full band efforts. With the „I“ EP, Frederick and I went to a jam room and we would must play. When we would find something we liked, like a pattern or a riff, on the drums, we would do takes of ten to fifteen minutes of me playing that part. Since we jammed them I would stray from the pattern and keep going. We would take a chunk of that and add it to the next part. That is how „I“ came to be extremely random. For us, it is almost impossible to learn it, because everything is so random. When we had record the guitars and bass, we had to draw schematics for the whole thing. Not notations, but simple guides to where all the hits where because it was all random. There is not a pattern or anything. That was also why it took so long to record it. Onto the „Catch 33“ release, because we programmed all the drums, it was basically all four of us in an office space around one computer and we had a Line 6 Vetta Head plugged into the PC through a soundcard, and that is how we made the whole album. The only things we added in the studio were the vocals. Apart from that, „Catch 33“ was us, four guys sitting around a computer.



Everyone was involved in all the guitar parts and all the drum parts. Even though Martin and I wrote the lyrics, everyone was involved in putting the lyrics to the music. That is a big aspect of the record. When you write music like this, you need to get the vocals to flow with it, but still have it connect to the rhythmic pattern. It is difficult.

**Is there a vocal / lyrical theme?**

Basically, the title and the image, the cover art suggest that it is a paradoxes. It is not a theme in that sense. It just that if you look into lyrics you find that everything is paradoxical within the lyrics.

**So there is a contradiction and paradox within the music and the recording process and the lyrics!**

It is very much so! Everything is paradoxical! We really ended up breaking up a taboo within this genre. It is taboo to have programmed drums, especially a band like us, where the drums have always been prominent. It really throws a lot of people off: but it is one of those things we wanted to do. We noticed the programmed drums worked really well with the idea of having a guitar driven album. The programmed drums sound a bit like a real drummer, they are emotionless and turned out really well.

**What did Nuclear Blast think about this concept when you brought it up?**

They were surprised to hear that we did not want to use live drums. Other than that they didn't have much to say. They don't usually have much to say about what we do, they don't question us. We have been doing this for fifteen years, so I guess they like what we do, and this is just the way we want it. We wouldn't let anyone have a hand in our music.

**Tell me now a bit about the 8-string guitars. When did this idea first come about? What was it like first playing these things?**

We have used the seven string guitars since they first came out, since '91 or '92. We did not use them on first album, but from „None“ and on we

used seven string guitars. This guy in Sweden said he could build us a guitar with as many strings as we wanted. We thought a bit about experimenting with an additional low string. Once, we started using the eight string guitars, there was a lot of inspiration within the instrument, because we found we can write new things in a different way. They are not suited for playing power chords on the lower strings, but for single string riffs, it is unique to go way down like that. It was a really cool thing!

**So there was a creative rejuvenation with these new guitars?**

That may be a bit of an exaggeration, but it certainly helped us find new ways to write in our style of music.

**Now I also read that the band was under a lot of stress during the „Nothing“ sessions. Tell me a bit about that and the all-nighters.**

Basically, we didn't have our studio, so we booked studio time at Daniel Bergstrand's studio, which was a bit far away from Stockholm. Early on in the recording we got the offer to do Ozfest, and that is what put pressure on us. The whole album, especially the production, suffered from us having to rush everything. To give you a hint of the differences, for „Chaosphere“ we used ten weeks for the vocals. For „Nothing“, we used seven days for the vocals. We had him scream, and that was that. We used up maybe eight days for drum recording, seven days for vocals and a week for guitars and bass. Basically we mixed an album and literally as soon as the mix was done, we got into a cab and went to a mastering place and Frederick basically fell asleep while mastering, he was up for fifty hours. The next morning we flew to the states. It was really stupid, we would have taken another two months for the album had we not done the Ozfest. That is what put the pressure on us.

**When someone says Meshuggah is a technical band, sometimes that comes with a sort of negative connotation that the music is hard to get into. Do you think that because of the style of music you play it is hard for some people to get into?**

I can't really see that. People can be deterred but, you either like it or you don't. I can't see fans of everything liking us. If your favorite band is KREATOR, you will probably not like us. You have to be someone who is open minded and interested in new ways of writing music and thinking. If you are a super fan of old school Thrash Metal you are probably not gonna like it, you are probably not gonna like us.

**On the flip side some people including Rolling Stone magazine have placed MESHUGGAH high on the Metal mantel piece. How do you take this praise? How do you respond to people when they saw MESHUGGAH is the best band ever?**

We don't respond at all. It is flattering I guess. We try not to put much sway into something like that. It seems like people write us up and think we are cool just because we are different and they think it is cool to like MESHUGGAH, so they force themselves to like it. In all honesty, out of a hundred reviewers that write us up as a crazy band that everyone should know about, I don't think half of them are even into it. We don't take notice to those things.

**Are you going to go back to conventional recording processes for the next album?**

Yeah, we are gonna go back. „Catch 33“ and „I“ are not meant for live us and we need some more live material. We plan to go back to basic song structures. No more continuous song structures.

**What are you going to bring back to the creative process from „Catch 33“ and „I“?**

We are going to bring a lot actually. We bring renewed inspiration as far as studio work. We have now found there are so many new ways to record an album and to write one. This will help us for the next album. Myself, I wouldn't be surprised if almost all the material were written by the whole band. If not, at least more than the past albums. We will do more things together as a band, but it will not be a „Catch 33“ or something like that. It will be more in your face.

**Now from what I understand your recording contract with NB USA is up. Are you entertaining other offers or will you stick with Nuclear Blast for another 3 albums?**

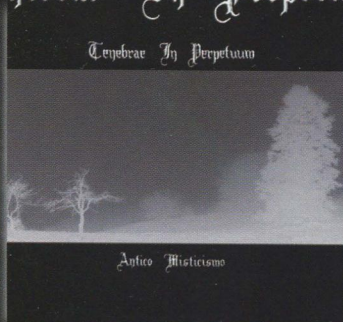
Yes, we are re-signing with Nuclear Blast. We have a much better deal than other places. We had a few other offers but they could not match Nuclear Blast. Over the last five years, things have been getting better and better. We feel good about it!

[alexi.front@gmail.com](mailto:alexi.front@gmail.com)  
[www.alexifront.com](http://www.alexifront.com)





# Tenebrae In Perpetuum



**TENEBRAE IN PERPETUUM** (Ita)  
"Antico Misticismo" CD / DigiCD / LP  
Cold & Hateful Black Metal !

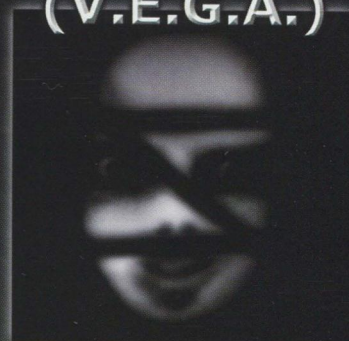
# Debemur Morti

PRODUCTIONS



**HORNA** (Fin)  
"Ääniä Yössä" A5 CD / CD / LP  
New album of the Finnish Black Metal Legion !

# (V.E.G.A.)



**(V.E.G.A.)** (Ita)  
"Cocaine" CD / DigiCD  
Fast, Eerie & Psychotic Musick !

# SLIDHR



**SLIDHR** (Ire)  
"S/T" Demo Tape  
Furious & Apocalyptic Black Metal !

# Blasphemous Underground

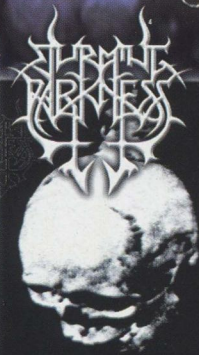
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Black / Death / Doom Vinyls, CDs, Tapes, Zines & Merchandise !  
<http://www.debemur-morti.com/distro/>

# Blasphemous Underground

# Sigillum Diaboli

Sigillum Diaboli

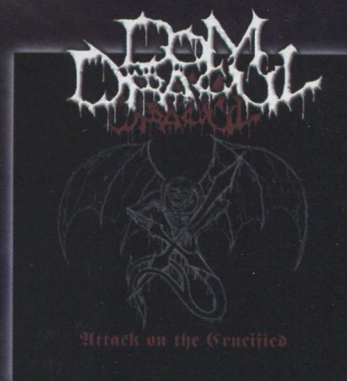


**SIGILLUM DIABOLI** (Rus) / **STORMING DARKNESS** (Rus)  
"Split" Gatefold LP

**Sigillum Diaboli** offering excellent cold & raw Black Metal in the traditional nordic vein, leading you into a melancholic journey !  
**Storming Darkness** presents harsh & uncompromising Black Metal filled with hate & violence !



**DARKLORD** (Aus)  
"Symphony Satanikka" Gatefold 2xLP  
Australian Twin neck guitar madness, offering a unique mix of utter darkness, heaviness, brutality, majesty & excellent intoxicating solos !



**DOM DRACUL** (Swe)  
"Attack On The Crucified" DigiCD  
Raw, hateful, devilish & grim oldschool Black Metal attack !

More Upcoming Blasphemies (in no particular order) :

**DARKLORD** (Aus) "...By The Force Of Sacred Magic Rites..." Gatefold EP  
**DOM DRACUL** (Swe) "Genocide In The Name Of Satan" EP/MCD  
**MORD** (USA) "Imperium Magnum Infernalis" LP  
**NAZXUL** (Aus) "Black Seed" Gatefold LP (co-release with Asphyxiate Recordings)



# DISPLEASED RECORDS

PRESENTS

OUT APRIL 28



## STRIBORG

### *Embittered darkness / Isle de morts*

Sin-Nanna herewith presents 'Embittered darkness', his latest full length, again filled with undeniable feelings of oppressive hatred, grim misery and painful desolation! Recorded in January 2006, this material is among the rawest he ever did! Primitive and harsh, yet interweaved with layers of bleak emotions. As a bonus, the rare 1997 'Isle de morts' album is added. 70+ minutes of hell!

Displeased Records D-00147 CD

## AGATHOCLES

### *Mincer*

Five years after their previous full length, these Belgian mincecore grind masters return with their latest full length! With a new line-up they improved their writing and recording, resulting in a killer new 21 song attack, surely their most mature and devastating material so far!

Displeased Records D-00141 CD/TS/LS



OUT APRIL 28

OUT NOW!!



## SURRENDER OF DIVINITY

### *Manifest Blasphemy*

This Siamese unholy force returned from the very depths of hell to record their second full length! Created in Bangkok City, this masterpiece of blasphemous abomination is surely one of the best albums recorded in the South East Asia area!

Essential for fans of Impiety and Blasphemy!

CD version includes a bonus track + live clip! Different CD and LP artwork!

From Beyond Productions FBP-057 CD/LP

## ABOMINATOR

### *Eternal conflagration*

The true warriors of Australian War Black Death return with a killer new full length! 'Eternal conflagration' holds no less than 8 new tracks of hammering carnage and pounding metal devastation! Intense and slamming old school styled, this new masterpiece will surely please fans of their earlier outputs! Cover artwork by cult artist Chris Moyer!

Hail Abominator!

Displeased Records D-00149 CD/TS/LS



OUT MAY 28

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